

P. O. Box 181
Cambridge, MA 02139

22 December 1976

The City Council
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I want to congratulate all those on the City Council who are determined to keep (recombinant) DNA research out of Cambridge.

I consider these researchers, playing their scientific games with computers and human genes, a much more evil breed than Hitler and his Nazis. Hitler's agents attempted genocide; a cynic could call it selective pruning. The groups that suffered the most are, and for the past generation have been, stronger than they were before the holocaust. No one can deny that.

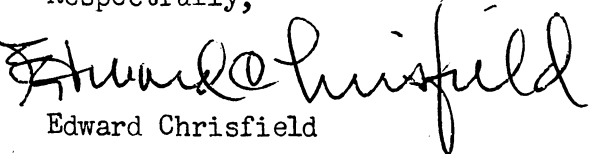
With frivolous arrogance, the DNA gamesters ask us to leave them alone while they seek to eradicate disease, poverty, pain, war, and even death. God help those of us who are tolerant or unconcerned about this matter. Their games prove that they are very contemptuous of mankind.

One sentence in a recent news dispatch reads: "Those involved in the research, however, believe recombinant DNA will soon prove as necessary as the electron microscope in fighting diseases." Their deceit and arrogance stick out in that word "necessary." Fighting diseases may be "desireable," but it is not "necessary," except for the individual who considers his health and survival more necessary than the health and survival of mankind itself.

If, tomorrow I am struck down by some terrible disease and beg for help from medical researchers, that does not invalidate my contempt for them. I will merely be proving that an individual is capable of begging for medical aid while not caring one whit that the tools used to save his life are the same tools that will destroy man's ability to resist the million-fold predatory pressures of his environment - except by the use of artificial machines.

This research can only be the germ from which these Frankenstein's hope to create a world of organic robots. Our best answer to them is "Go somewhere else. We don't need you here."

Respectfully,


Edward Chrisfield

2. S-5

Comm. from Edward Chrisfield expressing opposition to recombinant DNA research in Cambridge.

In City Council,
January 3, 1977

1/3/77
Placed in File -
Under the report
or
the report by the
Loyd Group