

June 1, 1950

Dr. Donald M. Reynolds
College of Agriculture
Division of Bacteriology
University of California
Davis, California

Dear Monti:

Many thanks for your letter of May 26 in which you indicate that you will be able to see Mr. Watson and Sam Epstein June 20 to discuss the Schatz affair. They will contact you the 19th and probably plan to see you at Davis on the 20th or 21st. Your willingness to cooperate is very much appreciated. All we want to accomplish is to get what facts we can so that there will be no misunderstanding in presenting the case before the judge. The case will not be a jury case. It is called a case in equity, whatever this is, and not a case of law. Consequently, the case will be presented before a judge who will render a decision. It is expected that the trial will be held in October.

It distresses me very much that you have been threatened as indicated in your letter. You can rest assured, however, that the basis of the threat is unfounded. The University legal group has been informed of your letter so upon receipt of your last communication we got in touch with them indicating what you had heard. They state that they could not and in any case would not put your letter in evidence. It is obvious that the court is not interested in opinions, and facts are the only acceptable evidence. Why it is that Schatz would threaten you I do not know. It is completely illogical and would seem to be a gesture of desperation rather than the result of a reasonable deduction. Rest assured that we would not in any case imperil anyone knowingly nor to misrepresent the facts. We feel certain that if the facts are understood by the judge the best interests will be served. I hope that this will give you some reassurance and convince you that we will do nothing to embarrass anyone. In view of what you have heard from Schatz it might be well to let him stew in his own juice and not inform him whether or not your letter would be presented as evidence.

There is no opportunity at the moment to indicate my feelings regarding the case or to elaborate on its background. It is toward the end of the semester and I am submerged in

June 1, 1950

examinations and other matters that have to be cleared up promptly. I hope to write you in the near future, however, and give consideration to the matters you mention. It is possible that you will see Sam Epstein and Mr. Watson before I have occasion to write to you. They are completely informed about the case and will be glad to give you whatever information they can. It is probable that they know more of the background and ramifications of the affair than I do. Feel perfectly free to solicit whatever information you wish from them.

We are deeply engrossed in all sorts of matters microbiological and wish that we could devote our entire attention to them instead of being harassed by such unsavory affairs as the Schatz case.

Best regards to you and your family and to Dr. Starr.

Cordially yours,

R. L. Starkey
Professor of
Microbiology

RLS:DP