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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JAMES E. CANNON

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Guidelines for Conducting
Genetic Research

The President reviewed your memorandum of September 18 on the above subject and signed the attached memorandum and letters.

The Signed documents have been forwarded to Robert Linder for appropriate handling.

cc: Dick Cheney
Robert Linder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

September 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON *Jain*

SUBJECT:

Guidelines for Conducting Genetic Research

On June 23 the National Institutes of Health published guidelines for the conduct of genetic research. The guidelines are specifically directed at experimentation involving the creation of new forms of life. They establish carefully controlled conditions for such experiments.

In order to monitor developments in this sensitive area, Secretary Mathews has proposed the creation of an inter-agency committee to review all Federal activities related to this scientific field (often referred to as recombinant DNA experiments).

Attached for your signature is a memorandum to the heads of departments and agencies urging their cooperation and participation in naming representatives to serve on this proposed committee.

In addition, there are two letters for your signature to Senators Kennedy and Javits. These two jointly wrote to you congratulating the Administration for the issuance of research guidelines. However, they expressed their concern that the guidelines are only binding on Federally funded research and have no effect on other domestic and international research.

The letters to the Senators indicate your shared concern about this problem and your intention that the issue be carefully studied by the interagency committee.

The letters and memorandum have been approved by Robert T. Hartmann, OMB, the Counsel's Office, Jack Marsh, the Office of Science and Technology and Max Friedersdorf.

I recommend you sign the attached memorandum and letters.