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December 12, 1959

Dear George:

You are a good friend. You write regularly every week, and I regularly delay my answer.

In your letter of December 8th received yesterday, two pieces of information are of particular interest to me : (1) John is taking up the matter of your retainer at the next meeting, in January. I am sure he will be successful; (2) T. is superior to his predecessor. I am glad to hear this, but I must say that although I resigned from the Board of the Mexican Light, Bill D. always tried to maintain friendly relations between the company and myself, whereas relations between Sofina and me were non existant.

I received quite a few letters and telegrams on my birthday, to which I replied. Although written in German, I am sending you copy of a letter I addressed Herman Abs, of the Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt and Chairman of the Sodafabrik of Ludwigshafen, and formerly a very important member of the I.G.Farben. After the last war the I.G.Farben was split into three parts : (a) Bayer, (b) Hoechst, (c) Ludwigshafen, and a subsidiary, "Casella", also very important.

I wonder whether your company, "Squibbs", has received a copy of the latest publication of "Ciba" on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its foundation. You will like it; it is written in very good German and profusely illustrated. If you have not seen this publication, your effort in getting a copy, I am sure, would be largely compensated.

The papers are full of the question of birth control. I have never used this expression, but for years I stressed with constant repetition the difficulties we are going to encounter for meeting the requirements of an increased population.

I also enclose copy of a letter I wrote Sir Edward Peacock, whom I met the first time in 1915 in Barcelona, with the engineer Marshal who quarreled with everybody and finally with Loewenstein, and that was the end of his activities. I always compare Loewenstein with André Meyer. I do not know whom I like most, that is like choosing among a pack of muzzled dogs in a meat house.

We are nearing rapidly Christmas 1959. With over 87 I am in a hurry and I count already Christmas 1960.

Mr. George S. Messersmith,  
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As you know, we have decided to give an extra award of the Dannie Heineman Prize next year, in May 1960. We had agreed to give the prize every two years, but considering my age, the prize will be awarded also in 1960. The selecting committee will include as last years the top members of the American Physical Society and it is contemplated this time to award this international prize to a foreigner.

*As ever yours,*

Enclosures