COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

CABLE AND TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CORESEARCH,"
CANBERRA

P.O. BOX 109, CITY
CANBERRA, A.C.T.,
AUSTRALIA

9-11-60.

Dear Professor Lederberg

I have the sad task of telling you that Bob Wright died on 3 November. There is little doubt that he took his own life but as the inquest has not yet been held this has not yet been formally established. Naturally this came as a great shock to all of us and Mari is still very upset. Her mother & brother have arrived in Australia & the funeral was held yesterday so things should improve from now on.

Mari intends to return to Wisconsin but no date has been fixed for her return. She will probably write you but I told her that I would let you know what had happened. She would prefer that it not be widely known around Wisconsin that Bob took his own life - I think she has told her father that the cause of death was probably a brain haemorrhage - an after effect of the car accident.

Its impossible to know just why Bob took his life - I feel pretty sure that it was primarily due to a couple of checks to his research programme, which he regarded as severe checks, plus possible after-effects from the head injuries he had received. Mari blames herself for not being here in Canberra - she was due to move up with the family on 11 November - but we here dont think this was a major factor

In case you want Alan's address it is

Flat 20, 155 Powlett St, East Melbourne. Vic.

Sorry that I have to be the bearer of such tidings

Yours sincerely

Dick Brock