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Appeal to the Western Evolutionists against the Hydrogen Bomb by the Japanese Society for the Study of Organic Evolution

Dear Sir:

We are sending this letter to you with our heartfelt appeal to your sympathy for the inestimable victims due to the recent atomic weapons. It is only five years since we read one of Dr. Muller's excellent papers "Our load of mutation" with deep impression. As he pointed out there and elsewhere, factors increasing the load have become accumulated with the advancement of civilization. Based on his research on the estimation of the critical values of the frequency of human mutation, it is hoped to realize in future the possibility of finding out some effective ways of mutation prophylaxis toward the progress of human beings.

It is our duty, as pointed out by Dr. Jepsen, to transmit the chromosomes received from our ancestors, without a bit of injury. Since the last war, or more precisely the fall of the atomic bomb, biologists are making a progress in their thought that biological science can not be separable from the ethics concerning the evolution of human society and wisdom. For further proper evolution, one needs no more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis.

You know well that the price we paid was more than enough. It is to be regretted, however, much more costly prices have been forced to be paid again and again in such time of peace as this. The air of the stratosphere has been filled with radioactive dusts that will fall on the ground with wind, rain and snow. The waters of tropical Pacific Ocean have been contami-

nated with molecules emitting ionizing radiations. These radiations have inflicted and will continue to inflict direct and indirect injuries upon mankind, realizing the conditions which we, and of course you also, are afraid of being brought as the results of the atomic fission and fusion if these were operated without our good sense.

"The facts of atomic fission could lead to the fusion of knowledges into social wisdom," Dr. Jepsen says. Then, would the facts of atomic fusion lead to fissure the wisdom into the vacuum over the stratosphere, bringing about the destruction of human society?

It is time to appeal for the abeyance of attempts of such tremendous destruction. We hope that you, the Western evolutionists, would take the leadership of this appeal, because you are the men most conscious of the destructive influence due to the radiation upon the life on the earth.

Very sincerely yours,

ICHIRO HAYASAKA, *President,*
Japanese Society for the Study of Organic Evolution
Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University,
Sapporo, Japan

An open letter, dated 1 May 1954, received by many geneticists and evolutionists in the United States, and probably also in other countries of the world, from their Japanese colleagues.

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