I am very glad to have your communication of recent date expressing a viewpoint on H.R. 4700, the Forand Bill to amend the Social Security Act and Internal Revenue Code with respect to certain medical benefits. The House Ways and Means Committee has concluded a week of public hearings on this legislation and there appears to be no plan to advance it out of Committee in this Session.

There is every likelihood, however, that action will be undertaken in the second Session beginning in January, 1960.

Inasmuch as this measure is not pending in the Senate, I shall want to give it additional attention before making further comment. I can say generally, however, on the basis of my estimate of the philosophy of the bill and the cost involved, that I am not in sympathy with this proposal.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen