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Dear ...:

With reference to your observations on the general subject of health insurance for the aged and specifically on the Forand Bill, let me first call to your attention that by a vote of 18 to 7 the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, which has jurisdiction of the matter since it is a tax bill, voted to reject not only the Forand Bill but any modification of that measure which might be limited to catastrophic illness.

This, however, does not mean that there has been any relenting in the efforts of the Administration and particularly the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to devise a workable, practical, voluntary program which will meet this admitted need and at the same time avoid all the evils which have crept into programs of this kind in other countries like Canada, Great Britain and Germany.

I am quite confident that before too long an alternative plan which is fair, workable and in accordance with our concepts of private initiative will have been completed and submitted to the Congress for consideration.

I share your interest in this matter and will give it sustained attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
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Dear ...:

In answer to your note let me advise that the Forand Bill was defeated several weeks ago in the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives by a vote of 17 to 8.

It is possible that a similar proposal will be presented in the Senate as an amendment to a House passed tax bill and when this reaches the Senate you may be sure it will have my best attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen