For many months, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, under the direction and the urging of the President, has been diligently exploring the whole problem of health care for the aged and has been holding many conferences with different groups who could contribute to the formulation of a program which was sound, practical and feasible. These groups included the Insurance industry, the American Hospital Association, the American Welfare Association, the American Medical Association, the Labor organizations, and others.

As a result of these conferences, Secretary Flemming of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare fashioned and presented to the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives a tentative program which is deemed to be sound, voluntary, constructive, and in accord with American concepts. In the near future a bill embodying these principles will be presented for consideration.

In the Senate still another proposal has been presented which in due course will have the attention of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. Doubtless, other measures will also be presented and discussed, and there is every likelihood that before this session of Congress adjourns, a sound, workable program will be approved.

I am glad to note your interest. You may be assured that this matter will have the most considerate attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen