



UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

CC JJ
return to me

William L. Kissick, M.D., Dr. P.H.

George Seckel Pepper Professor of
Public Health and Preventive Medicine
School of Medicine

Professor of Health Care Systems
The Wharton School

Chairman, Governing Board
Leonard Davis Institute of
Health Economics

Reply to:

Room 224/NEB-2L
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6020
(215) 898-6385

December 9, 1991

Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.
Director, National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

Dear Don:

My compliments to you and John for an instructive and enjoyable review of the lessons of Regional Medical Programs. Moreover, it was a delightful reunion with colleagues of the past quarter of a century.

During lunch with you and Mike DeBakey, I indicated that I thought I could retrieve a copy of the President's Task Force on Heart Disease and Cancer that reported to President Kennedy on the eve on the Bay of Pigs. This past weekend I searched my files and discovered that my recall was incorrect. I have a copy of the Report Health and Social Security for the American People appointed by Kennedy when he was President-Elect and reporting to him shortly after his inauguration. A copy of the first two pages is enclosed.

Also enclosed is page 38 of The President's Task Force on Health that worked coincidentally with the President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke. You will note that it had a recommendation that parallels the Commission's recommendation #3 Regional Medical Complexes. Boisfeuillet Jones who chaired the Committee for Senator Hill, on which Mike also served, was Assistant Secretary for Health at the time and insured continuity. I assume that all of these documents are available at the Johnson Library or the LBJ School of Public Administration at the University of Texas.

I left my photo album with John for duplication and addition to the RMP record. Mike indicated that he would appreciate copies of the photos for his memorabilia.

The three-hour drive home provided an excellent opportunity for reflection on the substance of the day's events. The comments on constituencies stood out. Each of RMP's constituencies had major alternative concerns; manpower

Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.
December 9, 1991
page two

legislation and NIH support of research for academic health centers, Medicare and Medicaid funding for physicians and hospitals, and the National Center for Health Services Research and the HCFA Office of Research and Development for the emerging Health Services Research community that was spawned by RMP; e.g. (Wenberg at Vermont). Each was focused with precise relationships. RMP in seeking to be comprehensive and multifaceted, appealed to everyone but lacked an organized constituency.

I look forward to seeing the reports and videos that result from the Conference. Again, Don, well played.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William L. Kissick, M.D., Dr.P.H.

enclosure
cc: Michael DeBakey, M.D.