December 7, 1951

Dear Don:

In line with what I told you over the telephone, I enclose herewith a brief memorandum listing the names of four doctors and one dentist whom you might consider for the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation.

As I told you on the telephone, I found out after seeing you this afternoon that it is the opinion of our professional staff here that every one of the professionals that we discussed today, plus Dr. Lovell Reed, are and would be opposed to National Health Insurance. I think we should definitely have three or four of the people who have some sympathy for the President's point of view and not deliberately stack the professional membership of the Committee against the President's program.

Dr. Means is outstanding. Recently he resigned from the Massachusetts Medical Society because he did not approve the $25 assessment.

Dr. Jones' position on health insurance is not so well defined but testimony that he has given before Congressional committees indicates an open mind.

I do not personally know Dr. Sanders or Dr. Mayer but I understand they are both very able men. Dr. Mayer is the Treasurer of the Physicians Forum and is definitely in our corner. He also has an exceptionally fine professional reputation.

So far as Dr. Walls is concerned, I cannot add anything to the enclosed comments.

Cordially and sincerely,

Oscar R. Swing

Honorable Donald S. Dawson
Administrative Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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DONALD S. DAVISON
JAMES H. MEANS, MD

Born Dorchester, Mass. Is professor of clinical medicine (emeritus) at Harvard University; chief of medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital; currently associated with Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Means is a man of outstanding ability in the field of internal medicine. He has a clear understanding of social medicine problems, of the type the Commission would study.

T. DUCKETT JONES, M.D. (Boston and New York)

Internist; specialist in acute rheumatic fever. Was responsible for one of the four working parties which produced the Ford Foundation Report. A good head, clear thinker, hard worker. Is Director of the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation. He, too, has a clear understanding of the problems of social medicine and would make an excellent Commission member.

THEODORE H. SANDERS, M.D.

In practice of internal medicine, New York City. Dr. Sanders has a clear understanding of the problems of medical care and has expressed himself well at Senate hearings on this subject and in hearings on S. 1679.

BERNARD G. MEYER, M.D.

Practicing psychiatrist in New York City. He, too, has demonstrated his clear thinking and understanding of medical care problems and testified favorably on S. 1679.

R. M. WALLS, D.D.S. (Bethlehem, Pa.)

Dr. Walls is one of the few dentists who has expressed opinions on health insurance and other health programs. He has a clear understanding of the problems and is favorable to increased government action in the health field.