December 23, 1952

Dear Dr. Magnuson:

I am in complete agreement with the suggestion in your letter of December 22 concerning the final report of the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation. All five volumes of the report should be published and distributed in a manner that will give the American people the fullest opportunity to study the findings of the Commission's twelve months of work.

Accordingly, I have today sent the enclosed letter to the Director of Defense Mobilization requesting him to undertake the assignment to accomplish this objective, utilizing the facilities of the Health Resources Staff of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

I want to say once again that the members and staff of your Commission deserve the gratitude of the country for a job indeed well done.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Harry S. Truman

Honorable Paul B. Magnuson
Chaiman
The President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation
Washington 25, D. C.
December 23, 1952

Dear Mr. Fowler:

As you can see from the enclosed copy of a letter I have received from Dr. Paul Magnuson, Chairman of the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation, certain steps must be taken in the coming weeks if the complete findings of the Commission are to receive the public consideration they merit. In view of the responsibilities of the Health Resources Staff of the Office of Defense Mobilization, I would like you to undertake the assignment of following up on the Commission's work so that all five volumes of its report receive appropriate publication and distribution. Your work should be completed prior to January 15, 1953. Funds for this assignment will be provided by your agency from the President's Emergency Fund.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Dr. Magnuson.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Henry H. Fowler
Director
Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

MP: dad

[Handwritten note: “Received. Mr. McKelvey. Mr. Underwood. 1913.”]
My dear Mr. President:

On December 18 it was my distinct privilege to transmit to you the summary report of the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation. As I indicated, the report is the first of five volumes which the Commission will prepare prior to its termination on December 29.

I know you agree with the unanimous conclusions of the Commissioners that the complete findings of the Commission, resulting from twelve months of intensive work, deserve the careful study of all the American people. This means that the five volumes of the Commission report should be given adequate publication and distribution. The present limitations of time and funds under which we are operating do not permit the Commission to perform the additional technical operations to accomplish this objective. Therefore, I am writing you in the hope that appropriate provision may be made subsequent to the expiration of this Commission's life to see to it that the complete works of the Commission are made available in suitable form to the American people.

May I take this opportunity once again, on behalf of the members and staff of the Commission, to thank you for having given us this opportunity to work in the interest of better health for all the people of our Nation.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Paul B. Magnuson, M.D.
Chairman

Honorable Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.
THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WILL MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 15TH AT 11:30 A.M. (Health Commission Members)

MAGNUSON, Mr. Paul S., Chairman, Chicago, Illinois

HARRARD, Mr. Chester L., New York, N. Y.

HUNKER, Mr. Lester W., Philadelphia, Pa.

LAWRENCE, Dr. Donald, Peterborough, New Hampshire

LITTS, Mr. Albert J., Washington, D. C.

MINEY, Mr. Joseph C., New York, N. Y.

JENSEN, Dr. Charles S., Nashville, Tennessee

LEE, Dr. Russell V., San Francisco, California

MACK, Miss Elizabeth S., Cleveland, Ohio

MCNIN, Dr. Clarence, Raleigh, North Carolina

MBedi, Mr. Lowell J., Baltimore, Maryland

SHAHAN, Miss Marion W., New York, N. Y.

Staff Members

MILLS, Dr. Lester

NAME, Mr. Thurban

O'BRIEN, Mr. Mike

ROSE, Miss Cosette

SHERMAN, Mr. Harold A.

WEST, Mrs. Margaret

WINTERS, Miss Lola
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1952

NOTE FOR MR. CONNELLY

Attached are copies of the final list of persons from the Health
Commission who will attend the meeting with the President on Thursday,
December 18, at 11:30 a.m.

M.P.K.
Milton P. Kayle

Attachment.
NOTE FOR MR. CONNELLY

Attached is the list of persons who would be present at the President's meeting with the Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation. I have included their places of residence to give you some idea of the travel problems involved which make it desirable to know of a definite time as soon as possible.

The Commission plans to present its final report to the President at the proposed meeting. By specific provisions of the Executive Order establishing it, the Health Commission must go out of business by December 29. However, according to the present time schedule of the Commission, it will not have its final report ready until the very end of the month. That is why December 29 appears to be the most appropriate date for all parties concerned.

Dr. Magnuson, Chairman of the Commission, is very hopeful that the meeting can be set up for Monday, December 29. If not, he suggests Saturday, December 27 if the President is seeing people on that day. Apparently any earlier date would involve travel during the crowded Christmas week and likewise would bring about a meeting with the President at a time when sufficient copies of the final report of the Commission are not ready for general distribution.

Milton F. Kayle

Attachment.
President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation

Chairman - Paul B. Magnuson, M. D., Orthopedic Surgeon, formerly Medical Director of Veterans Administration, Chicago, Illinois

Chester I. Barnard, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, N. Y.


Dean A. Clark, M.D., General Director of Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Donald Clark, M.D., General Physician and Surgeon, Peterborough, New Hampshire

*Evarts A. Graham, M.D., Surgeon, St. Louis, Missouri

Albert J. Hayes, President of International Association of Machinists, Washington, D. C.

Joseph C. Hinsey, Ph.D., Dean of Cornell University Medical College, New York, N. Y.

Charles S. Johnson, LL.D., President of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee

Russel V. Lee, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, California

Elizabeth S. Magee, General Secretary of National Consumer's League, Cleveland, Ohio

*Lowell J. Reed, Ph.D., Vice President of Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

Walter P. Reuther, President of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, Detroit, Michigan

Marlon W. Sheahan, R.N., Director of the National Committee for the Improvement of Nursing Services, New York, N. Y.

Clarence Poe, LL.D., Editor of "The Progressive Farmer," Raleigh, N. C.

* Have indicated they may not be able to attend the meeting.
STAFF MEMBERS

Dr. Harold A. Press, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Mrs. Margaret West - Chief Statistician, Technical Staff
Mr. Mike O'connor - Public Information Consultant