July 16, 1947

Dear Dr. Moorman:

I read your letter of July seventh with some surprise.

It is perfectly apparent that you are not familiar with the Public Health Program advocated by this Administration.

I am sorry that you haven't taken the trouble to enlighten yourself on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Dr. Lewis J. Moorman
216 Plaza Court
Oklahoma City 3, Oklahoma

\[^{286}\]
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

According to the press, in your messages and public utterances proclaiming the need of compulsory health insurance, you have employed the words "compulsion" and "freedom" as though they possessed a certain degree of kinship and as if they might work together in friendship. According to my interpretation of Mr. Webster, the two words are mortal enemies and can never be successfully harnessed in the same cause. Throughout the ages slaves would have been free except for compulsion.

Recently the world was shocked by the revelation of mass medical murder in Germany under the Hitler regime. This could never have happened if Bismarck had not clandestinely murdered the free spirit of medicine and of the people through his social security program including compulsory health insurance. The latest of so-called social security turns out a world of trouble and unrest. One hundred years of compulsion in Germany destroyed professional freedom, robbed the individual doctor of personal liberty, and left him without a choice between right and wrong. Because of the inferior quality of regimented medicine, it represents insidious mass murder which gets under way as soon as any compulsory health insurance program is instituted, and becomes vulnerable to open mass murder when democracy is destroyed by so-called social security and Government paternalism.

The people in your great Middle West remained at home with their ears to the ground when you went to Congress. Surrounded by the last vestiges of unadulterated Americanism they heard the confused rumbling of democracy on the road to servitude, and as you entered the White House they wondered if you would remain true to the spirit of your section so representative of American freedom. Here, the people are vigorous, competent, generous, and happy because of free enterprise.

Your advocacy of regimented medicine has surprised and disappointed the best of your compatriots. In this Bismarckian business there is abysmal darkness from which politicians may never return. You may know your politics but you are not qualified to determine the future of medicine. You do not know how to follow the path that nature walks, nor do you know how to direct the art of healing. The social security director, though naively willing, is not qualified to serve as family physician to one hundred and forty million people.
May I call your attention to the fact that we used to go abroad to learn medicine, and that as time passed, regimentation of European doctors weakened the appeal of the world's great clinics and medical schools and finally they were virtually destroyed by the war. Now the world is looking to America for the advancement of medical learning and postgraduate education. Regimentation of the medical profession and the people of this country through compulsory health ("sickness") insurance would rob the United States of a great opportunity to serve a sick world.

Trusting that you may give serious attention to the history of medicine in this country and the results of compulsory health insurance in other comparable nations before establishing controls and limitations which would seriously alter the course and quality of medical service in the United States, I am,

Very sincerely,

[Signature]

[Date]
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. President:

It was good of you to take time to answer my letter but a bit unfair to summarily dismiss my patriotic fears for the people of our great country with the assurance that I am not informed about the Administration's proposed Public Health Program.

Fortunately, I have enjoyed living in a free country and serving my people through free enterprise, with no uniformed bosses in Washington and no directives, bulletins and blanks to curtail my time which has been wholly devoted to patient welfare and professional attainments. This life work represents my small contribution to my country. Recent trends toward socialism which I consider government paternalism, have caused me to add the threat of compulsory health insurance to my studies in order that it may have fair consideration in the light of what I know of patients and medical practice.

Please note that I have not added all national and international problems as you have had to do. I am sorry for you. Even a rare genius could not encompass all with adequate comprehension.

Why don't you look over the fine record of American medicine, compare it with any other countries and be comforted by its relative rating and its present high health level and falling mortality rates? In the face of your troubles, including the threat of another war, why not leave medicine, one of the few going concerns in the United States, alone? Physicians sponsor no strikes, pose no picket lines and seldom turn the poor away. They come to Washington only in behalf of the people, by the people and for the people. If war should come, again they will volunteer and again they will give our combatants the best care the medical world has to offer.

Being President of the United States entails a frightful responsibility. In response to your consciousness of this responsibility, undoubtedly you must be thinking not only of the present but of the future.

Humbly, I claim enough knowledge of medicine and medical needs to know that you will face while you are living and add stature to your future if you
consider medicine a free enterprise and leave it in the capable hands which have
brought us to our present high health level.

Trusting you will pardon this earnest expression of the faith within me I am

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Louis J. Heimshe