HR 7035

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 10, 1961

Dear Congressman:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of August 2, 1961, requesting his views on H.R. 7035, the Labor-Health, Education, and Welfare appropriation bill.

In acting on this measure the House provided a total of some $45 million over the President's budget estimates. The Senate action on the measure included a substantial portion of a supplementary request made necessary by subsequent Congressional action, and in addition provided increases over the estimates for other items for a total net increase of $157 million over the President's budget recommendations.

The present grave international situation which requires additional substantial outlays and sacrifices on the part of the American people does not lessen our responsibility to meet the urgent needs of our own people. On the contrary, adequate provision for many of these needs -- especially the health and education of our citizenry -- takes on even greater significance as we seek to improve our national defense posture.

It is the President's belief that the budgetary recommendations which he has made to the Congress for programs in the Labor-Health, Education, and Welfare appropriation bill provide a sound and balanced program that will effectively meet the Nation's needs in these fields.

The Congress must, of course, exercise its wise judgment in acting on these recommendations. To the extent that the House of Representatives or the Senate has significantly increased particular appropriations above the President's requests, such action is of course within their province, and the President would not wish to prejudge a matter which presently involves a difference between the two Houses on an appropriation bill. At the same time, the

President is confident that the conferees who are appointed to work out the differences on this bill will give weight to the priorities and needs which were reflected in his budgetary recommendations. The Congress and the President share the exceedingly difficult responsibility for deciding on the wise and prudent use of the Government's resources and their balanced allocation among alternative needs.

Sincerely yours,

Larry O'Brien

Lawrence F. O'Brien
Special Assistant
to the President

Honorable Melvin R. Laird
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.