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Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.
Director
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Dear Don,

I received your note of April 1 and regret the delay in my reply. I've been out of town trying to clear up some family matters and this has delayed me. I hope you have not been inconvenienced.

The idea of having a meeting to do a little reviewing of the Regional Medical Programs is fascinating, and I am prepared to help in any way I can. I do have some thoughts. When Vernon Wilson was the Administrator at HSMHA (the agency that included NIMH, CDC, the predecessors to HRSA and HRDA. etc.,) he set up a committee to advise him on how to "integrate" Comprehensive Health Planning, the National Health Services and Research Development program and Regional Medical Programs. This became the foundation for the National Health Planning and Development Act that created Certificates of Need, Health Systems Agencies, etc. As I recall it, the committe was chaired by Bill Willard, and included John Hogness, Ed Pellegrino, Nathan Stark, Joe English, and myself. There may have been one more, but that can be checked with Nathan, Ed or Verne.

Later, I moved into the Assistant Secretary slot and the last item we deleted from the president's budget for the next year was RMP's. This provoked much discussion-more on this later if you wish. What's even more important was it's evolution beginning with the original concept as proposed by Mike DeBakey, and followed by its total transition to a new entity after much pressure was exerted by the AMA. Mike should be asked to be present, as should some of the early directors such as Bob Marston.

I have no problem with the date for your meeting. What I cannot do, however, is meet the expenses. I'm fully retired now and have no income. I'll participate if you can help with the expenses. Failing that, I'll be glad to make myself available for a phone or other type of interview.

Thanks again for your note. It was good to hear from you. Until next time, warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Merlin