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UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

William L. Kissick, M.D., Dr.P.H.
George Seckel Pepper Professor of
Public Health and Preventive Medicine
School of Medicine
Professor of Health Care Systems
The Wharton School

Reply to:
Department of Research Medicine
NEB-2L/Room 224
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6020
215-898-6385

June 14, 1991

Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.
Director, National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

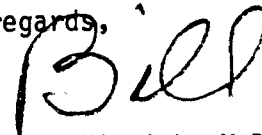
Dear Dr. Lindberg:

Thank you for your letter of May 28 inviting me to participate in the December 6, 1991 symposium on Regional Medical Programs. Having participated extensively in its conceptualization and drafting along with Ed Dempsey and Bill Stewart, I would be delighted to participate in a retrospective.

Your invitation has provoked me to review some of my files and reports of the President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke and other materials related to the legislation. Enclosed is a copy of an article ^{attached} published in 1965 that records an effort to disseminate our concept. I had the privilege of visiting with Vern Wilson in 1969 and learning firsthand of your work at the University of Missouri.

In the late 1960s we thought that Regional Medical Programs was "An idea whose time has come." Now I ask, "Where are Regional Medical Programs now that we need them?" Without them, I am increasingly of the conviction that 126 academic health centers are at risk. Once primary care locks-up health care financing with capitated prepayment, as I think it shall, I see academic health center sitting in isolated vulnerability. I retain a significant commitment to the concept of Regional Medical Programs.

Best regards,



William L. Kissick, M.D., Dr.P.H.