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630 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10020

January 31, 1977

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Chairman of the President's Cancer Panel, I am pleased to enclose herewith the Panel's annual report on the National Cancer Program as required by Section 407(c)(4) of the National Cancer Act of 1971.

The Director of the National Cancer Institute and the National Cancer Advisory Board have already reported to you on the progress of the Program during the past year. The enclosed report does not undertake to duplicate the material contained in those reports. It does, however, attempt to give you the Panel's evaluation of the Program and to deal briefly with some of the important issues which we feel should be brought to your attention.

The National Cancer Act of 1971 reflected a desire by the Congress and the Administration to give cancer research a higher priority. In the implementation of this policy, the funds which have been made available to the National Cancer Institute have been increased in successive steps from \$180 million in 1970 to \$816 million in 1977. These increases have enabled the Cancer Institute to support more and better cancer research than has ever heretofore been possible. Despite the rapid growth of the Program, a high order of excellence has been achieved in the work supported, and a good balance has been maintained among the various types of research involved and the varying research objectives. Although not everyone agrees with these conclusions, the Panel believes that the Program to date has been exceptional. The differences of view are dealt with in some detail in the enclosed report.

The most important recommendation for this Program at the moment is the recommendation of the appointment of Dr. Arnold Brown as Director, National Cancer Institute. This subject was dealt with in an earlier memorandum dated December 3, 1976, and submitted during the transition period. A copy of this memorandum is also

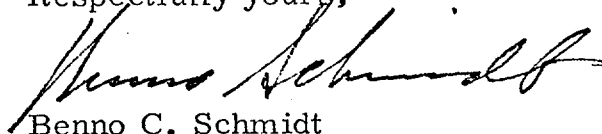
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enclosed for your convenience. I am most hopeful that this appointment can be made promptly after the designation of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the Director of the NIH. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this appointment with the Secretary of HEW as soon as those appointments are made.

The Panel believes that a strong program in cancer research is essential to the best interests of the American people and of people everywhere. This disease, which today strikes one in four Americans and kills two out of three of those it strikes, must be better understood so that we can do a better job of prevention, diagnosis and treatment. This can only be achieved through research. I will cooperate with you and the Secretary of HEW in any way in which I can be helpful in bringing about the best program in cancer research of which American medicine and American science is capable.

With every good wish to you in the successful discharge of the enormous responsibilities which are now yours, I am,

Respectfully yours,



Benno C. Schmidt
Chairman
President's Cancer Panel

Enclosures