



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Health  
Washington DC 20201

November 5, 1981

Honorable S. I. Hayakawa  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hayakawa:

I have been traveling for the past 13 days speaking or representing the Public Health Service, hence, the delay in answering your letter of October 23.

I don't know what I can do to reassure you that I am a man of my word and that I have enough integrity to mean what I say. I have taken the position that I will not let my personal beliefs be used improperly in the performance of my job as Surgeon General.

There has been no situation in the eight months that I have been Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, where the Surgeon General plays any role in abortion decision-making. Insofar as amniocentesis is concerned, I do support it and particularly its outgrowth, fetoscopy, which I think represents one of the most exciting advances in the treatment of fetal disease. Having spent my life in the correction of anomalies of the newborn, I can see all sorts of possibilities with fetoscopy and I support its continued use as a research endeavor.

When I appeared before the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, I said that I believed in family planning, that I would support reproductive research and the search for new male and female contraceptives. I consider contraceptive research to be one of the great needs of this country and would like to see increased funding for such an endeavor.

I trust these straightforward brief answers are satisfactory. I would be more than pleased to sit down and discuss these matters with you at any time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "C. Koop", is written over the typed name.

C. Everett Koop, M. D.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health