The original documents are located in Box C7, folder "Presidential Handwriting, 11/30/1974" of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: KENNETH R. COLE, JR.

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

SUBJECT: Attached Material

The attached material was returned in the President's outbox
with the following comment to you:

    -- What is your reaction?

Please follow-up with the appropriate and submit your response
to the Office of the Staff Secretary for forwarding to the President.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

From the President:

To: *Ken Cole*

Date: Time   a.m.
                                                                    p.m.

What is your
reaction ?

RN

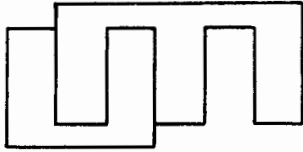Date 11/25/74

TO: The President

FROM: Paul A. Miltich

FYI X   ACTION

OTHER :

Mr. President, please note the
attached letter in which Prof.
Wilbur Cohen makes certain
recommendations concerning
national health insurance.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Office of the Dean

Corner East and South University Avenues
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Telephone (313) 764-9470

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

NOV 25 1974

November 18, 1974

Mr. Paul A. Miltich
Special Assistant to the President
  for Public Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Paul:

This is in further reference to our earlier exchange of
letters about a national health plan which President Ford
could recommend and which could be passed by the Congress
during the next two years.

It is my opinion that the complex and confusing "mandated"
plan proposed by the Nixon Administration will not be accept-
able to the new Congress. Moreover, I suggest that President
Ford should recommend his own plan which should be formulated
to obtain a wider base of support.

The approach which seems to have the widest support in
Congress is the so-called "catastrophic" coverage type plan
introduced by Senators Scott and Percy (S.2756) and Senators
Long and Ribicoff (S.2513) with Representative Waggonner
(H.R.14079). (The Scott-Percy bill includes a supplementary
medical care plan on a voluntary basis.)

One variation would be to combine a catastrophic pro-
posal with another type of popular coverage such as complete
protection for all children under age 6. The cost of such
a total package could be split three ways: one third by the
employer, one third by the employee, and one third from
general revenues. No member of Congress has yet introduced
a bill which includes both catastrophic and childrens'
coverage. The President could develop his own proposal by
combining these various proposals which might well be
supported by Chairman Mills, Chairman Long, Scott, Percy,
and Ribicoff and thus assure the kind of cooperative bi-
partisan development of legislation.

A different possibility is to utilize the <u>voluntary</u> approach now in Part B of Medicare which provides that the Government pays one-half of the cost of all physicians' coverage.

There are several possible combinations and variations of these general proposals, none of which in any combined form have been yet seriously considered in Congress. A new approach to national health insurance may be a startling and acceptable way for the President to break the log-jam on this important legislative matter.

Sincerely,

Wilbur

Wilbur J. Cohen
Dean

WJC/as