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March 13, 1970

Gordon Duffy, Chairman
Assembly Health and Welfare Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento 95814

*Orig given to Menzies
3/17*

*Wrote this concept included in
bill - No grants will be cut from
level of January 1, 1970
Rosenberg will draft -*

Dear Gordon:

This refers to the proposal which is contained in our legislative package to provide for the establishment of a joint living standard for married couples where each is eligible for and receives public assistance under one of the adult aid categories.

It is my understanding that you are concerned that there should not be any actual reduction in grant and that this result should be achieved by establishing the joint living standard for the married couple to coincide with the cost of living increase to become effective December 1, 1970.

The Department has established a prototype budget for a married couple which suggests an overall reduction for the two recipients of \$5 per person. It is expected that the cost of living increase to become effective next December would equal \$5 per recipient so that it would be possible to establish the budget for the married couple at the same date and therefore not actually reduce their grant by denying such married couples the cost of living increase. We believe that it would be legally unsound for us to attempt to state this purpose in the statute. We would prefer instead that the operative date of this proposed additional section as outlined in our proposal H-53 be set as December 1, 1970. It is my promise to you and to the members of the Assembly Committee on Health and Welfare that we will establish the budget for the

Assembly Health & Welfare Committee

Gordon Duffy

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married couple within the limits of the actual cost of living increase to be effective on that same date. The result, therefore, would be no actual decrease in grants for the married couple affected by this proposed policy.

I want to thank you again for your extreme courtesy in assisting the Administration in taking these very important welfare steps in achieving welfare reform.

Sincerely,

Lucian B. Vandegrift
Secretary