

February 13, 1967



Mr. George H. Kachele
Department of History
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Mr. Kachele:

I appreciated very much receiving your note relative to my participation in the actions taken against some segments of the cranberry industry in 1959.

I knew prior to one of my regularly scheduled press conferences that the Food and Drug Administration had taken action with respect to certain portions of the cranberry crop. I knew the reasons for this action. I had concluded that the action taken was in line with the duties and responsibilities assigned to that agency. I knew also that because the Food and Drug actions had been given some publicity in the Pacific Northwest I would be asked questions about these actions at my press conference. There was no question in my mind about my obligation to respond to those questions by putting everything on top of the table. If confronted with the same set of circumstances again I would act in a similar manner. Any other course of action, it seems to me, simply contributes to what in more recent years we have talked about as a "credibility gap."

If I can be of any further assistance to you I hope that you will feel free to get in touch with me.

Very sincerely and cordially yours,

Arthur S. Flemming
President