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U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 5, 1984

Underground Railroad Members and Guests
 Blackie's House of Beef
 1717 22nd Street, N. W.
 Washington, D. C. 20817

Dear Friends:

On the occasion of your annual Underground Railroad Banquet, may I take this opportunity to send my greeting to you, and to share some of my thoughts concerning the Veterans' Administration Decentralized Hospital Computer Program system with you.

As you know, the Committee and I fully supported Chuck Hagel's decentralized ADP plan when he announced it in March of 1982 during his tenure as the VA Deputy Administrator. After Chuck left the VA, the plan, which relied heavily on the resources of the Underground Railroad, was derailed and appeared to be approaching its demise. In order to get it back on track, I wrote a strong letter to the Administrator, and solicited the help of Chairman Boland of the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. Subsequently, the Congress provided the funds and the VA, with the outstanding assistance of the Underground Railroad, performed a near miracle in bringing the largest health care system in the western world into the present day ADP world!

You, as members of the Underground Railroad, can take great pride in your outstanding accomplishment. The task required

great dedication and unselfish personal effort. Regrettably, it resulted in some very calamitous casualties along the way.

The job is not over, and I know that all of you will continue in your efforts to make this system the finest medical ADP system in the world. I pledge to you that I will continue my unwavering support of your important work and will maintain close oversight of all activities here in Washington and in the field to ensure that our mutual goal is met.

Best Wishes,


G. V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY
Chairman

GVM:bpd