Nov. 9, 1953

To: Julius Edelstein  
From: Frances Williams

The attached letter from Secretary Benson re soil conservation administration seems to indicate that the Secretary looks upon the Washington staff of this segment of the Department of Agriculture as a service staff without any responsibility of supervision.

While this is not said I think one look at the chart which shows the State Soil Conservationist reporting directly to an assistant to the Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service would indicate that this is the purpose of the reorganization. Washington is to give the money, the states are to spend it as they choose.

This is the theory under which the Extension Service now operates. All the denials that the Secretary does not wish to put soil conservation under the Extension Service are to naught. The point is state control without state responsibility.

Regional offices are necessary when the federal government feels responsible for supervision.