Dear Senator:

Twice this year, in August and again in October, floods took an appalling toll in lives and property in Connecticut and other states in the East.

The enclosed pamphlet, made available to me through the courtesy of the Waterbury, Conn., Republican-American, reproduces photographs vividly illustrating the effects of the floods upon one important section of my State, and their impact upon the lives of the people.

I am sending this now in the hope that during the Thanksgiving holiday you will have time to study it carefully and reflect upon the responsibilities these terrible disasters have placed upon the Congress.

We of Connecticut and the other flood-stricken states are giving thanks in this season that our recovery has been so great. This has resulted partially from the federal assistance made possible by prior enactments of the Congress. Nevertheless, our needs remain large, and will require prompt action by the 84th Congress when we reconvene for our second session in January.

Legislation in many fields will be required, but the three most important categories of need are:

1. Appropriations and additional authorizations, where needed, for the construction, just as soon as humanly possible, of a comprehensive flood protection system for New England and the other flood-affected states.

2. A sound, workable program under which the home owner and businessman can purchase, at reasonable cost, insurance against the risks of floods and other disasters.

3. The correction, with maximum possible retroactive effect, of defects which have come to light in existing federal disaster relief law, and tax relief provision for disaster victims.

I am confident I can count on your sympathetic consideration of these matters, and hope you will join me in pressing for early favorable action after the Congress reconvenes.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Prescott Bush
U. S. S.