The Honorable H. Alexander Smith
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Smith:

This is in reply to your letter of May 24, concerning the classification of Agricultural Engineers in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

The problem of the classification of Agricultural Engineers in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles has been discussed with a representative of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers over the period of the past several years. It has been explained to the Society that the present classification structure in the Dictionary does not have sufficient flexibility to create additional classification groups for engineering categories without involving major changes in the other professional categories already contained in the structure. It was further explained that if such a change were made at this time, it would impose a disproportionate burden on our local public employment offices in making a large number of code number changes in their operating files.

Major classification changes of that type are best handled when revised editions of the Dictionary are issued. New work is currently being done which ultimately will revise the entire classification structure and will enable a reconsideration of the highlighting of significant engineering groups, including Agricultural Engineers. When this new classification structure is completed it is hoped that work can be started on a revised edition of the Dictionary which would be released within the next several years. At the present time, Agricultural Engineers are included in the Dictionary classification structure in the major engineering group for Mechanical Engineers.

One of the original concerns of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers seemed to be that of deferment problems with local draft boards. The Society was advised that problems of that type are handled by the Selective Service System and they were referred to that organization. They were also informed that this Department has no jurisdiction over the Military Occupational
Specialties developed by the Department of Defense. For discussion of classification in these systems, the Society was referred to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower.

I hope the foregoing explanation will be helpful to you. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of Labor