The Honorable Howard Cannon  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In May of this year, the Committee on Foreign Relations agreed to undertake a review of United States policy toward Cuba. Toward that end, Senators Claiborne Pell and Jacob K. Javits plan to travel to Cuba the last weekend in September. They will meet with officials of the Cuban Government. Robert H. Dockery of the Foreign Relations Committee staff has been asked to accompany them.

Request has been made to the Department of State for validation of their passports, and visa approval has been requested through the Embassy of Czechoslovakia.

Expenses in Cuba will be considerably higher than the per diem rates normally allowed. Because of this and the unusual circumstances involved, it is requested that Senators Pell and Javits and Mr. Dockery be granted per diem in lieu of subsistence not to exceed $50 per day while they are in Cuba, pursuant to Title 2, Section 68b, of the United States Code. They will submit reports of actual expenses after they return to Washington.
In order to simplify the trip to Cuba, Senators Javits and Pell plan to charter a small aircraft to fly them from Miami to Havana, a distance of 248 miles. The alternative, by commercial means, is to fly West to Mexico City, where there are two flights per week into Havana, or fly to Barbados, where there is one flight a week to Havana and one flight a week back to Barbados.

Authorization is also requested to expend the amount necessary for this charter flight. The flight to and from Havana will cost $1,000, plus whatever, if any, landing fee is charged by the Cuban Government. This could amount to $400, but there is a possibility that this fee will be waived. We will not know about this waiver until the party lands in Havana. Also, there may be three other members of Senators Pell and Javits' personal staffs who will accompany them at their own expense. If so, they will be charged a pro rata share of the charter price, thus reducing the cost of the trip.

I would appreciate your prompt consideration of the above requests.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

CC: Senator Claiborne Pell
Senator Jacob K. Javits