December, 1971

Dear Corvair Owner:

This letter is being sent to you pursuant to the defect notification provisions of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has made an initial determination that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists with respect to the 1965 model year Corvair engine/heater system. This initial determination states that the Corvair direct air heating system "creates an unreasonable risk of accidents and injury to persons in that engine fumes are transferred from the engine compartment into the passenger compartment, and such engine fumes do, in some cases, contain carbon monoxide in sufficient concentrations to harm or endanger the occupants of the vehicle."

Of a group of 292 1961-1969 Corvairs tested for the Traffic Safety Administration, six 1965 Corvairs were found to have a carbon monoxide level in the passenger compartment exceeding 200 parts per million under certain simulated driving conditions. Exposure for eight or more hours to 200 parts per million of carbon monoxide was identified as a sufficient exposure to result in a marked degradation of the abilities of a healthy adult make to perform as an alert and responsible driver. Similar adverse effects can be produced in less time by greater concentrations. In addition, adverse effects to the health of some vehicle occupants may result from lesser concentrations of carbon monoxide, given sufficient exposure.

Chevrolet does not agree with the initial determination of a defect which was made by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It is Chevrolet's position that there is no such risk if the Corvair has been regularly inspected and properly maintained and is in good working order.

Rather than engage in a controversy with the Traffic Safety Administration, Chevrolet is mailing this defect notification letter to all owners of 1961 through 1969 model Corvairs to advise them of this initial determination by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
Records available to Chevrolet indicate that you are the owner of a (1961) Corvair. Event though the initial determination of the Traffic Safety Administration by its terms was limited to the 1965 Corvair, this notification letter is being sent to you because the type of direct air heater on the (1961) model Corvair is similar to the direct air heater on the 1965 Corvair.

We strongly urge that you have a Chevrolet dealer inspect the engine, the exhaust system, and the direct air heater system of your Corvair. We believe that if a Corvair has been regularly inspected and properly maintained and is in good working order, it will operate without danger of exhaust fumes entering the passenger compartment through the direct air heater. However, if the vehicle is not regularly inspected and properly maintained, conditions could develop which may permit exhaust fumes to enter the passenger compartment through this heater.

All engine exhaust fume contain a percentage of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is tasteless, colorless, and odorless. Engine exhaust fumes containing a sufficient concentration of carbon monoxide, if inhaled for a long enough period of time, can harm or endanger the occupants of a vehicle.

In addition to having a precautionary inspection of your Corvair at this time, if you ever suspect that any of the following conditions exist, your Corvair should be promptly inspected and, if necessary, repaired. Should it be necessary to continue to drive your car before inspection and necessary repairs can be made, the heater should be shut off and a window rolled down.

**Cylinder Head Gasket**

Exhaust fumes inside the passenger compartment from a leaking cylinder head gasket normally will be accompanied by noticeable odors and may cause an eye-burning sensation. There also may be an associated hissing or spitting noise from the engine.

**Exhaust System**

A damaged or deteriorated exhaust system in combination with a damaged or deteriorated engine compartment perimeter seal or heater hose, or exhaust fume leakage past the manifold sleeve, under certain condition can permit exhaust fumes to intrude inside the passenger compartment through the heater system without noticeable accompanying odor. Visual inspection should be made at normal maintenance intervals to verify that the exhaust system is in good condition, that the tailpipe outlet is located in the original design position, and that the heater hoses and engine compartment seals are in place and in good condition.
Chevrolet dealers can provide all service required by you in the inspection and correction of any of the conditions referred to in this letter. Inspection and repairs are maintenance items and, like all other maintenance requirements, are the responsibility of the owner.

Your Chevrolet dealer has been provided with complete information and instructions relating to the inspection, repair, and maintenance of your Corvair engine/heater system. Chevrolet strongly urges that you see him promptly and regularly.

Please return the enclosed pre-printed replay card either direct to Chevrolet or present it to your Chevrolet dealer if your vehicle is made available for inspection.

Chevrolet Motor Division
General Motors Corporation

Enclosure