

HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHEST

P.O. Box 61

Houston, Texas

October 8, 1928.

Judge W. W. Moore,
Petroleum Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Judge Moore:

On account of a rather special opportunity which has just presented itself to increase the support of our hospital, I would like to have your judgment regarding its advisability. The Houston Clinic offers to place all of its colored insurance patients with us at a rate of Three Dollars per day, they providing all the necessary surgical and medical equipment to deal with their type of cases, mostly those of fracture. In deciding this matter there are several circumstances that I think you should have in mind.

First, we are at present dependent upon the colored physicians for patients. They have not yet developed to the point of realizing that it is a privilege to practice in the hospital. Indeed it is almost completely the opposite of this. As you know we have been considering some way to bring in the bracing influence of a white consultant staff but have been unable as yet to work it out. The colored doctors have at times become so fractious that I have felt it almost imperative to develop some other sources of patients.

In the next place, I don't want my trustees to become restive over the small number being served by the hospital. They will be going into the thing soon after the campaign. It would be encouraging all around if we could have a daily average of fifteen additional beds occupied by the type of industrial negro who comes under this plan. The additional income would of course put us on our feet.

I have wanted us to break into the insurance field ever since the beginning, but find that there is no company that will permit a patient to go into the hands of a negro doctor. They say a negro doctor means a "shyster" lawyer. It therefore involves admission to the hospital of specified white physicians from the Clinic.

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The arrangement however would not involve our regulations otherwise. It would simply be letting our beds and service to the Houston Clinic for the care of their own patients. The arrangement could be treated as special and for a period of time, say twelve months, subject to reconsideration and renewal.

As the Houston Clinic will have to make immediate arrangements for the care of their patients, and will, otherwise, place them in other hospitals, I hope you will give me the earliest possible decision on the matter.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) J. W. Slaughter

J. W. Slaughter,
Executive Secretary,
Houston Community Chest.

cc WWM 10-9-28 to

JSC(NY-HO)

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