

J. S. CULLINAN  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

Houston, Texas,  
November 21, 1928.

HOUSTON NEGRO HOSPITAL

Judge W. W. Moore,  
Building.

A representative of the negro staff telephoned my residence yesterday evening requesting an appointment which I arranged for at 12:00 today. The following persons were present:

Dr. B. J. Covington  
Dr. J. W. Dickson  
Dr. R. O. Roett  
Dr. F. F. Stone  
Dr. G. W. Antoyne  
Dr. D. Pemperton  
Dr. W. M. Drake  
Dr. C. W. Pemperton  
Dr. T. A. Fatten (Miss)  
Dr. H. E. Lee  
Dr. G. P. Forde  
Dr. A. E. Jones

They were represented by Dr. Covington who presented the case in a clear cut way, finally winding up with the real reason for their coming - a complaint against Mrs. M. H. Bright, the chief nurse who they feel is a great handicap to the institution.

After listening to what they had to say, I reviewed the situation from the beginning; how I came to be interested; what it meant to their race, not only in Houston and Texas but throughout the United States; the sympathetic consideration as applied to the Advisory Committee, and the patience with which Dr. Slaughter and yourself had met the complications as they arose; further mentioning the attitude of the Mayor and the Commissioners, and the indifference of Tuskegee and other institutions representing their race; finally stating that while I had not and would not assume to direct or dictate anything pertaining to the policy or management of the hospital, I had heard and continue to hear complaints about their failure to get together and carry out the aim and end in view - helping the negro to help himself.

I then stated that if they would now put the case to me in writing, properly backed from authoritative sources, I would see that it received appropriate attention, warning them that in doing so they might and probably would be taking

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the risk of having an entirely new policy adopted between now and the first of the year and that such policy might prove seriously objectionable to them; that I thought it would be well for them to discuss among themselves the advisability of so presenting to me, or on the other hand, making a further attempt to adjust their differences and establish harmonious relations.

Dr. Drake asked if this method might mean turning the hospital over to the city and white physicians. I stated that under certain conditions this seemed a possible if not probable solution.

Incidentally they mentioned that there was a white physician operating in the hospital today without authority other than approval from the head nurse. They further mentioned that it was their understanding that arrangements had been made with the Houston Clinic to handle the negro insurance patients. I mentioned that I had heard of this and understood it to mean a temporary arrangement to meet the immediate financial requirements through failure of the institution to receive proper financial support from their own race.

All were profuse in the statement that they were loyal to the hospital and assigned all of the work they could to it and desired to see it succeed under the plan.

I made it plain that the success of the hospital or its ultimate expansion was not dependent on them, though the success of the plan worked out was dependent on their race, the negro board and themselves, mentioning that I had just let contract for live oak street trees around the property, and sidewalk and curb for the north end.

I am sending copy of this to Dr. Slaughter, for your joint information.

J. S. CULLINAN

JSC-CZ

cc-Dr. J. W. Slaughter,  
Houston, Texas.

Ho-NY-NC-WTS (Bld)