

J. S. CULLINAN
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Houston, Texas,
July 5, 1934.

HOUSTON NEGRO HOSPITAL

Mr. J. Y. Powell,
Building.

Dear Sir:

After reviewing recent correspondence, including your letter of June 23rd addressed to the Advisory Committee, it seems to me the time has arrived for consideration looking to securing definite commitments, or failing, proceeding to take such action as is necessary for the protection of this institution in the interest of the community, the City, and the County, and to discontinue drifting with the current without definite aims and ends.

In the first place, this institution is now, always has been and always will be in politics.

We are on the eve of candidates seeking nomination and election.

Accordingly, the facts should be looked squarely in the face and measures taken to meet the situation.

I would suggest that at the earliest practicable date a special meeting of your Advisory Committee be called, undertaking to secure as many of its members as possible by making advance telephonic inquiry as to their ability to attend, making the call for the meeting at the Nurses' Home, giving the Superintendent advance notice to make preparation; and after all look over the buildings and the grounds, proceed to formulate resolutions for submission to the Mayor and the County Judge, and to make definite engagement with each for a time when such might be submitted to them. This for the purpose of developing:

1st: Their attitude conforming with previous correspondence and suggestions about the hospitalization of the negro in this community;

2nd: Their attitude towards the providing of space for the negro in the proposed reconstruction of the Jefferson Davis Hospital;

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To Mr. J. Y. Powell - #2.

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3rd: Accepting no promises that are not definite and to the point;

or, failing to secure such, immediately undertaking to make the question a campaign issue, that the people of Houston may decide whether or not this institution should be supported or not, following which solicitation of the insurance companies and others mentioned would seem to be in order.

George B. Waters in an article published in the Houston Press has already laid the ground-work for such publicity campaign, and I have no doubt that properly informed of the position the other papers would cooperate.

Meantime it is perfectly senseless to continue in the future as has been done in the past, and the hospital should either be supported by the County, the City, and the community, or closed, and a sign placed on the premises pointing it out as another Houston institution prompted by good intentions that was allowed to fail through lack of vision or support of the taxpayer in selecting representatives capable of understanding economic or social needs and providing for such on the most satisfactory and economical basis available.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) J. S. CULLINAN

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