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September 14, 1965

Gentlemen:

The following doctors were named to the AMA-NMA Liaison Committee. Any of you who may not have confirmed your appointment, please do so at your answer to this correspondence. The members are:

Dr. Leonidas H. Berry - Pres. - Chairman  
Dr. John Holloman - Pres-elect  
Dr. Emory L. Rann - Speaker  
Dr. W. T. Armstrong - Chairman, Bd. of Trustees  
Dr. Jack Kenny - Past pres.  
Dr. Jasper Williams - Chicago  
Dr. William H. Grant - Nashville

I have been in touch with Dr. Blasingame, executive vice pres. of the American Medical Association. He assures me that the members of the AMA Liaison Committee are in process of being named.

Meanwhile, I would ask each of you to go into a huddle with yourselves, bringing to bear all of your previous experience and knowledge in these areas so that we may collectively draw up the kind of engender which we would like to present.

- 1) I would say first of all that we would naturally be greatly concerned with states and local areas in the South where members of our Association still cannot join the Societies and the AMA.
- 2) We would be concerned with inability of our doctors in these areas to receive hospital appointments if this is contingent upon being members of the local societies.
- 3) We would be concerned with upgrading and more meaningful involvement of Negro doctors who are already members of the American Medical Association through the usual channels of their local societies.
- 4) We also would be interested, in my opinion, on hearing more of the point of view of the AMA Liaison Committee on the problems of medicare and its provisions, the points of objections. They would be interested in hearing our point of view also on medicare and its implementation.

Please give these matters your immediate thought and attention. I will be in touch with you later, and I believe it will be to our advantage and to the advantage of all concerned if we can have a reasonably early first meeting between our Liaison Committees. It would be my suggestion and my feeling that our committee should assemble for a night session in Chicago immediately before a morning session at the AMA Headquarters. I

would appreciate very much your analysis of the things I have said and add your own feelings and send them to me at your earliest convenience. Your interest and cooperation in this matter are very important and would certainly be greatly appreciated by me.

Sincerely yours,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.  
President  
National Medical Association

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