

July 6, 1966

Dr. James Z. Appel  
305 N. Duke Street  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

Dear Doctor Appel:

This is my official written thank-you note for having invited me, the president of the NMA, as one of the special guests of the AMA during its convention just closed. It was a very rewarding experience, and helps to improve the setting so that we may hope to make real progress as a result of our stepped-up liaison meetings between the AMA and NMA.

May I appeal to you as the immediate past president and the principal officer of AMA, who worked with me in setting up the liaison meetings during our administration, to continue to lend your influence toward continuing the impetus which I think we developed during the last year. I am sending a copy of this letter to the president, Dr. Charles Hudson, and hope that you will confer with him and the new Trustee Board chairman in this continuity of effort.

An official invitation has been accepted through Dr. Blasingame for the liaison group to be luncheon guests of the NMA Liaison Committee and the NMA Trustee Board on Sunday, August 7, at 1:00 p.m., Pick-Congress Hotel in Chicago. Dr. Hudson promised me in Tuskegee that he felt he would be able to fly over for the visit with us. This would be our third joint meeting in nine months, and I hope that we would be able to assess our gains and announce it at that time. I would hope that you would urge the appropriate officers to carry on with the proposed appointment of Negro members of AMA and NMA to important committees and/or Councils of the AMA Trustee Board and House of Delegates by the time of our convention, August 7-11. I have been working out with the national AMA office the proposal for joint literature and a program in the area of recruitment for medical careers.

Number 3 (and most important) I would hope that the three members of the Trustee Board, who were appointed to

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make some type of direct appeal to officers of constituent or component societies of AMA, proposing local conferences or other methods of improving membership in local societies and hospital appointments where NMA members are largely in control. ~~has been done so~~ This is an effort at conference rather than otherwise and is a method that I am most interested in. It would be an excellent thing, therefore, if we could report at least some initial effort in this area at our convention. Unfortunately, there ~~is~~ only two-weeks' time before I will have to have my report in for printing. I do not know for certain, but I would like to hope that some move has already been made in this direction at the convention or otherwise. I had understood that the title VI brochure, issued by HEW, on hospital compliance would be used by this committee to publicize spectacular examples of progress in integration in southern hospitals, as well as examples of where no progress has been made.

I would appreciate any efforts which you can make toward fulfillment of some of these goals, which I can report before the National Medical Association in August. It has been a pleasure to know and work with you, as well as Dr. Hudson, Dr. Hopkins, and Dr. Blasingame during the past year.

With sincerest regards and best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

LHB/ld

cc: Dr. C. Hudson, President, AMA