

March 7, 1966

Dr. James E. Walker
502 Tea Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Jimmie,

I am a long time answering, but better late than never. The NMA and other matters have kept my feet to the fire.

With reference to my opinion concerning the name of the new hospital to replace the present structure of Friedmen's, I would like to say with emphasis that I would like to see the name Friedmen's Hospital perpetuated. This represents the perpetuation of our culture. Too much of it is being destroyed or eliminated in my opinion.

I hope that our alumni can lend its voice toward projecting a new hospital of sufficient size and quality to compete in an integrated American society of the future and not just a brand new physical structure to embody an old hospital at its present structural and technical development. The new hospital should envision meaningful integration, expanded opportunities for clinical and basic research, as well as for teaching and practice. It should involve and embrace the new philosophy of a teaching hospital extending its tentacles deep into the community to offer bigger opportunities for the general practitioner, including a GP service.

I believe that there should be an effort always, in proper protocol, to induce qualified white physicians who would bring their white patients to the new Friedmen's Hospital. Efforts at meaningful integration should not be limited to Negro physicians and patients being involved in predominantly white hospitals, but the reverse should also be true if we are to preserve the institutions which have been developed as predominantly Negro. I further believe that the preservation of these institutions will be necessary and desirable for many years to come. If, on the other hand, they fail to integrate while integrated opportunities are developing otherwise, it will be very difficult to compete at the highest level with the other institutions.

If the majority opinion and considered judgment should dictate the change or deletion of the word "Friedmen's" in the

interest of obtaining the kind of integrated development which I have referred to, I would then be willing to change the name of the hospital and perpetuate its history in some other manner.

Hope you are fine, and with sincere interest in the future of Friedmen's Hospital, I am

Sincerely yours,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

LHB/ld