

JOHN A. ANDREW CLINICAL SOCIETY
In Connection With The John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

March 7, 1966

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Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, President
National Medical Association
412 E. 47th Street No. 26
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Dear Dr. Berry:

I certainly hoped to have written you before now, but since my return to Tuskegee from Chicago, I have really been swamped with a back log of work and am just now able to come up for a breath of fresh air and catch up on loose ends. Let me say again how much I enjoyed my visit with you and Mrs. Berry which, of course, includes your generous hospitality and that lovely meal which Mrs. Berry prepared.

Our plans for our Clinic are just about complete and we anticipate the mailing of advance copies of our program within the next two weeks. The Clinical Program has worked out extremely well and I really believe it should be an extremely informative and interesting three days. We are including in these programs, which will be mailed out, our Sunday afternoon attraction which will be the panel discussions on "Medicare" and "The Regional Plans of Centers for the prevention of Heart Disease, Stroke and Cancer." You will note that Kenneth Clement's name, as well as that of Dr. Arthur Hess will appear in connection with the discussion on Medicare, but that with respect to the discussion of the regional centers that your name alone is listed and this, of course, is because we will not know in time to include in the printed advance program, who you will be able to bring to Tuskegee to participate in this particular discussion. On the other hand, if this letter reaches you in time so that you can inform me of the name of that individual, I still may be able to get it into the program; but that will only be if you should be able to give me that information in the very next few days. For that reason, I shall mail this letter to you, airmail special, just in case you should be able to do so. On the other hand, if we don't have the name of anyone else in time for this advance copy, I am sure that we will have it in time for the final program--the one which we will distribute on the opening day of the Clinic.

You asked me, when I was with you in Chicago, if I would put in writing some of our expectations in connection with the discussion of the regional centers. As I have thought about this, it seems to me that taking into consideration the fact that the audience for our Sunday afternoon discussions will consist not only of physicians attending the Clinic, but also of a number of individuals from paramedical fields, some students, a number of the faculty members of Tuskegee Institute, as well as interested people from the community, that it would be appropriate to have a general discussion of the background situation and information that led to this concept, its formulation by Dr. De Bakey and the committee that worked with him, with reference to the AMA's initial attitude to and subsequent successful modification of the original plan, and lastly, the administration's method and plans for establishing the several types of centers and the role which they will respectively play. Certainly the role of the average general

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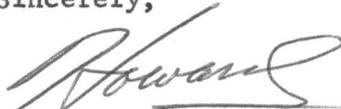
practitioner in relation to these centers and whether or not such centers will have an impact upon his practice would be of interest and, of course, the possibility of the Negro medical school, or hospital (or predominantly Negro Institution) being able to function in some connection with this program, would be of prime interest. What little I have heard about the implementation of the program suggest that there is no single way in which centers will be established in that it may well vary from state to state with the local medical societies being the determining bodies in some, the medical universities in others, and possibly the political forces having the major say so in others. On the other hand, where should the initial impetus for the establishment of the centers come from? What will be the role of the average general community hospital? With respect to the word "prevention" does this mean that the actual treatment of heart disease, stroke and cancer is excluded from the program? Well, these are some of the things that come to my mind that I feel the discussion should bring out and that will be of interest to all in attendance. I am sure that your intimate familiarity with the concept and your vantage point on the twelve member Commission will cause you to see which of these questions and points of view I raise are pertinent and will cause you to think of many others.

Well all for now Dr. Berry, and I hope that I have given you the information you need and if there is anything else important that I have not mentioned, I trust you will phone me for the same. I have not pursued the idea any further of a Regional Meeting of the National Medical Association and have borne in mind your feelings about such a session. As I mentioned to you, I do plan to write to the respective presidents of the surrounding state medical associations to advise them of the program, especially of your participation in it and of the Sunday afternoon subjects, and will certainly encourage their attendance. But if any other thoughts come to your mind on this, please let me know.

In conclusion let me say again how much I appreciate your cooperation, interest, and support of our program and I assure you that your presence and participation is going to add immensely to whatever degree of success we attain.

Warm personal regards to you and Mrs. Berry.

Sincerely,



Howard W. Kenney, M.D.
Secretary

HWK:gdp