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December 28, 1965

MEMORANDUM TO: The Former Presidents of the Association of
Former Interns and Residents of Freedmen's Hospital

FROM: James E. Walker, M.D., Co-Chairman *James E. Walker*
Mitchell W. Spellman, M.D., Co-Chairman *M. W. Spellman*
The Legislative Committee of the Association of Former
Interns and Residents of Freedmen's Hospital

During a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association of Former Interns and Residents of Freedmen's Hospital, the Legislative Committee was assigned the task to poll the former Presidents of the Association in order to determine their response to two proposals. One of these is a consideration of a name for the new hospital of Howard University, which is to be constructed, and the other relates to the adequacy of the dues of the Association.

It will be more useful if each of you will transcribe in the space provided a brief comment which reflects your point of view regarding each proposal and thereafter affix your signature.

Proposal No. 1

To our knowledge, a specific name has not been officially designated for the facility which will replace Freedmen's Hospital, the ownership of which will reside in Howard University and which will function as a University Hospital.

In the past, the Executive Committee of the Association affirmed an interest in preserving the name of Freedmen's Hospital within the new facility. Consultations with Dean Robert S. Jason and on a less formal basis with Dr. Charles E. Burbridge, Superintendent of Freedmen's Hospital, were undertaken by representatives of the Executive Committee during the interval following the endorsement by President John F. Kennedy of the Legislation which authorized the planning and construction of the hospital for Howard University.

Two alternatives were considered at that juncture; one was to apply the name "Freedmen's Hospital of Howard University" to the new facility and another was to designate one of the components of the unit or one of the pavilions of the new hospital as "Freedmen's Pavilion" or "Freedmen's Hospital" or "Freedmen's Unit" or the like. It appeared very unlikely then that the Association would obtain support for a recommendation to retain the name of Freedmen's Hospital as the title of the entire facility.

From these explorations and as a result of discussions within the Executive Committee, there was a consensus (we believe) for a proposal whereby the Association would commission the execution of an impressive plaque (or a memorial of appropriate design). This would occupy a prominent place in the lobby of the new structure and provide a narrative account of the history of Freedmen's Hospital and of the relationships of the origin of the new facility to Freedmen's Hospital.

With this background will you submit a comment and suggestion that will enable the Executive Committee to formulate a recommendation for the Association?

Proposal No. 2.

The Association's present dues of \$2.00 per annum are unrealistically small. We have considered an increase of dues to \$5.00 yearly together with an improved system of collection, which would assure payment of dues whether or not the member attends the annual convention.

The Committee would emphasize the need for a larger income from dues if the Association intends to continue in subsequent years, as presently, to underwrite the cost of research and investigations in which it has a particular interest. It is our opinion that this support of research is a contribution to the medical community, which in a large part justifies the existence of the Association and is an obligation that should not be abandoned.

Please write your comments and suggestions here.

We should remind you that each former President of the Association is a member of the Legislative Committee and that it is the purpose of the Chairmen to project your opinions and counsel.

MDS:bj