Health and Hospitals Governing Commission of Cook County
1900 West Polk Street Chicago, Illinois 60612 Telephone 312/633 7425

May 18, 1976

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Dear

I would like to take advantage of our long standing friendship and ask you to take a forthright and important action which is in keeping with your civic mindedness through the years. It will cost you no money. It will, however, take a little of your time.

The Governor's Selection Committee which appoints the members of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission of Cook County is holding a hearing on Friday, May 21, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the Carson Pirie Scott Building, 36 S. Wabash Avenue, Room 1200. The hearing is to be conducted by Mr. John Sengstacke, Chairman of the Selection Committee. The hearings have been set up because of allegations which have come from various special interest sources in the community. These interests are asking, in effect, and in accordance with the newspaper statements that: those members of the Governing Commission who voted for the firing of Doctor Quentin Young should be charged with Administrative Inefficiency and because of this are disqualified to continue their services on the Governing Commission. There has been activity among people who support Doctor Young to bring about the firing of Doctor Haughton and, ironically, just those Commissioners who voted for the firing.

Because of your long experience in observing medical care delivery for the Black and the poor at the County Hospital and in the City of Chicago, you recognize the importance of sustaining confidence in the present Commission and Doctor Haughton.

Permit me to say, in essence, that the issues involved are much bigger than Quentin Young. They concern:

 Whether the Governing Commission and its Executive Director have done an outstanding job in bringing the hospital from repeated probationary periods to its present successive commendatory and approved accreditation reviews;

- Whether it is worthy community service to have created one of the few and one of the best chronic disease hospitals, now at Oak Forest, which replaced a largely custodial and inadequate housing for the poor and suffering incurables; and
- 3) Whether the creation of an accredited prison hospital at Cermak and accreditable supervision and maintenance of one of the best nursing schools do not offset the criticisms with obvious special interests.

I am sure you agree, and hopefully you would say to the Selection Committee, that the insistence of the Governing Commission on discharging a so-called "high level" professional is a display of equal justice when so-called "rank and file" employees are similarly dismissed for subordination in most institutions.

Finally, every governing body must have the right to make decisions independent of recommendations when, in its judgement, such recommendations are deemed inappropriate.

Most important of all, is the fact that the Governing Commission, as appointed, has a legal responsibility to administer and govern these multi-million dollar institutions in accordance with their best administrative judgement and in the best interest of patient care.

If you care to express your personal and additional experiences and observations in support of poor and minority groups which County institutions serve and against the harrassment and personal interest which have been so vocal, we would appreciate your including this in your testimony.

With many thanks and very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Leonidas Berry, M.D.

Special Deputy for Special Community Affairs

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