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EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

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July 5, 1966

Cook County Physicians
Ass. file
for letters
Reed

Dr. Andrew L. Thomas, Pres.
Cook County Physicians' Ass.
4747 South Kenwood Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Re: Neighborhood Health Centers
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I. As mentioned in our previous conversation regarding the above health centers, its description sounds just like a private physician's office in our neighborhood -- none else. We would be moved out of the scene with a steam-roller concept in which it will economically establish itself only because people in these neighborhoods cannot afford to pay for private care. The entire program shows no depth of thought and unfavorable orientation toward the Negro patient and physician. I feel that initially we ought to Demand the Removal of the chairman, the vice-chairman, and the executive director and offer suggestions for suitable replacements. From private conversation I know this Dr. Eric Oldberg to be the "Ben Willis" of the medical field and the others are just as bad.

II. A crash program is needed for urgent medical care and we applaud this. I feel that we will be wrong to oppose any such program without offering suggestions. A supplementary program is needed for these underprivileged areas and needed immediately but these should not be centers to provide medical training for the medical schools' experimental projects to be tried out later on "white folks".

III. These centers should not form medical ghettos to further regimentation and drive out personal initiative through the Negro population and the Negro physicians. It will put Negroes on a medical "Indian reservation" to keep him out of the mainstream of private medicine.

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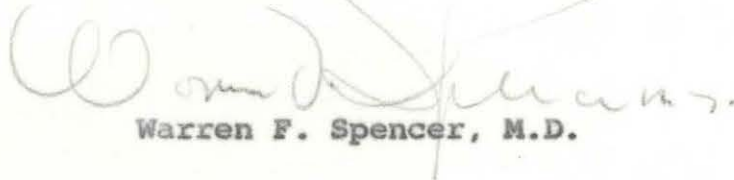
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IV. they should insist on being able to follow a referred patient into an established university medical center and thereby be able to recover the patient when he again returns to the neighborhood.

Any program of this sort should be of a limited and a specified time only, e.g. FIVE YEARS. And only while active antidiscriminatory programs are carried out in the Chicago medical schools and nursing schools which is the single main' cause for all the present dilemma which the neighborhood centers are trying to correct.

I wish to add this to the thought of the representatives concerned and I take this liberty feeling that I am an ex officio member of the CCPA committee designed to discuss our stand on the neighborhood health care centers.

Sincerely,



Warren F. Spencer, M.D.

WFS:amh

cc:

DRS. James Barnes
Leonidas Berry
William Clark
Arthur G. Falls
Kermit Melinger
Jeanne Spurlock
Robert Schoop
Charles L. Williams