

**REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
TO THE  
INTERIM SESSION OF THE NMA TRUSTEE BOARD AT CHICAGO  
FEBRUARY 12-13, 1966**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Trustees of the National Medical Association, the president of the NMA submits the following report.

After inauguration at the 70th annual convention, the House of Delegates approved most of the recommendations of the incoming president. Among the approved recommendations was the re-activation of the NMA-AMA Liaison Committee conferences. Your president was successful in arranging the schedule for the first meeting of this group on September 27, 1965, just six weeks after the Cincinnati convention. The NMA committee consisted of the president, the speaker of the House, Dr. Emory Rann, the chairman of the Trustee Board, Dr. W.T. Armstrong, the president-elect, Dr. John Holloman, past president John Kenney, and two presidential appointees, Drs. William Grant and Jasper Williams. As observer and advisor respectively, there were in addition at the first meeting a young member of NMA, Dr. Andrew Thomas, and attorney John Morris, retained as legal advisor in the absence of attorneys Coleman and Windsor. The AMA Liaison Committee consisted of Dr. James Z. Appel, president, Percy Hopkins, chairman of the Board of Trustees, Charles Hudson, president-elect, Dr. F.J.L. Blasingame, executive vice president, with Mr. Leo Brown, administrative asst., their attorney and secretaries. The AMA committee served as host and the meeting convened from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with 45 minutes for lunch,

all at the AMA headquarters, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago.

The discussions were frank and at times spirited. The NMA participants pointed strongly to the continued partial or complete denial of basic memberships to Negro doctors in local southern component societies of AMA and frank and subtle discriminatory practices against Negro doctors and patients in hospitals, north and south, with the permissibility of the joint commission on hospital accreditation controlled by the AMA and affiliated organizations. The AMA group contended that their national organization could not force compliance with its anti-discrimination resolutions nor its anti-fee-splitting ethical code, upon any component society. AMA cited component societies in Pa. and elsewhere in good standing which approved fee-splitting. Your president urged the AMA officers to show voluntary statesmanship of their own, if they were indeed sincere, to solve local membership problems in the south and end their 25-year policy of merely restating their lack of central power over local societies. Other members of the NMA committee acquitted themselves well in debate and in support of the principles of equal opportunity in medicine. There was final mutual agreement on nine points, and the AMA representative agreed to recommend their consideration by their Trustee Board and that the next Liaison Committee meeting would be contingent upon action by AMA trustees. Upon a recent inquiry by your president, Dr. Appel reports that this matter is now high on the heavily back-logged docket of the Trustee Board and should be reported out at their next scheduled meeting, hopefully before the NMA Trustee Board interim meeting in Chicago February 12-13, 1966. The NMA Liaison Committee agreed to submit the nine points



referred to to their Trustee Board and would defer any action until the AMA Board of Trustees had considered the points and reported in good faith their serious intent.

The nine points, in summary, which the NMA-AMA Liaison Committees agreed to submit to their respective Trustee Boards are stated as follows and are identical in wording to those agreed upon to be submitted to the AMA Trustee Board. Your consideration and action upon these points at this interim session is recommended by your Liaison Committee.

1) That the legal department of AMA in cooperation with the legal counsel of the NMA make a thorough analysis of the civil rights act of 1965 as related to medical and hospital care and that this information be brought to the attention of state and county medical societies and that both national associations encourage compliance with the law.

2) That the Chicago Commission on Discrimination Program be written up along with other worthy programs and that these voluntary efforts be made known to state and county medical societies and that both national associations encourage similar programs be implemented in metropolitan areas where hospital discrimination exists.

3) That the AMA commissioners on the Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Hospitals request the JCAH to reiterate through its bulletin the commission's standards relating to intramural discrimination against both patients and physicians in hospitals and that the AMA publicize these standards in its publication.

4) That the NMA and AMA cooperate in bringing to the attention of constituent medical associations alledged cases of discrimination and where indicated support corrective measures.

5) That the AMA again bring to the attention of state and county medical societies the association's firm policy of being unalterably opposed to the denial of membership privileges to any duly licensed physician because of race, color, religion, ethnic affiliation, or national origin and calls upon all state medical associations, all component medical societies, and all individual members of the AMA to exert every effort to end every instance in which such equal rights privileges or responsibilities are denied.

6) That the AMA invite the NMA to submit the names of qualified Negro doctors for the consideration of the Board of Trustees in making appointments to AMA committees, and that biographical material on each AMA member nominated accompany each nomination.

7) That the AMA appoint a special committee to develop a more aggressive program which it would promote to the end that discrimination in medicine and hospital services be eliminated.

8) That the NMA and the AMA jointly develop a recruitment program to enlist more qualified Negroes to enter the fields of medical practice, research, technology and nursing.

9) That similar liaison meetings be held at frequent intervals, these intervals to be determined by the presidents of the NMA and AMA.



Your president recommends that at the next liaison meeting the NMA host the committees for luncheon at a nearby appropriate hotel.

It is further recommended that a reference committee be appointed to study these points and report back to the Board.

One of the frequently announced important goals of your president is the drive for recruitment and orientation of outstanding new members, both white and non-white. The appointment of the committee on Membership Recruitment and Orientation was approved by the Trustee Board and the House of Delegates at the 70th Annual Convention. The committee was appointed with Dr. Garnet C. Ice of Detroit chairman. This administration had the unfortunate handicap of having the House of Delegates dissolve, for lack of a quorum, with several of the budget items failing to reach the floor for consideration. Among them was the Membership Recruitment budget. Nevertheless, with considerable effort on the part of your president, a national membership recruitment luncheon was held in Chicago on October 17, 1965, with Dr. Ice serving as the efficient and enthusiastic chairman. There were 55 participants at the luncheon, including most of the members of the national committee, including Drs. Robert Smith - Jackson, Miss., Sylvester Smith - Muncie, Indiana, David French - Washington, Jeanne Spurlock - Chicago. Several component societies around the country have taken in more new members than usual because of the membership drive of our national committee.

Another recommendation of the president, approved by the House of Delegates and the Trustee Board, was the appointment of the President's ~~an~~ Advisory Committee on Health Legislation. The Congress having been in recess, there were no major activities with reference to

new federal legislation. However, upon your president's request, Dr. Edward Mazique and honorary NMA member, Prof. Walter Booker, distinguished pharmacologist at Howard Univ. testified in a congressional hearing against proposed anti-vivisection bills. During the last six months Technical Advisory Committees have been assembled to consider various aspects of implementation and guidelines for putting into operation the medicare law (P.L. 89-97) and the regional programs against heart disease, cancer and stroke (P.L. 89-239). By presidential approval and appointment by appropriate HEW officials, Dr. Kenneth Clement, past president of NMA, was appointed to "HIBAK," the 16-man Health Insurance Benefits Advisory Council. There were many candidates for this top advisory post in the administration of medicare, but Dr. Clement was regarded as eminently qualified among the selected "persons outstanding in the fields related to hospitals and medical activities."

The president made clear to the officials of Health, Education and Welfare and Social Service Administration the desire of the National Medical Association to be represented on all national advisory councils and committees in the establishment of guidelines and implementation of medicare. Because of lack of funds and other points of feasibility, three of the President's Advisory Committee on Legislation - namely, past president Edward Mazique, president-elect John Holloman, and your president - met in the first conference of this administration with undersecretary Wilbur Cohen, undersecretary James Quigley, and surgeon general of USPHS, Dr. William Stewart in the HEW offices of Mr. Cohen on September 1965. On



request from government agencies in response to your president's correspondence, the following members of NMA were named to participate on national Technical Advisory Committees on Medicare at the Social Security Administration headquarters in Baltimore. Dr. James Newby, Jr., internist on the staff of the Community Hospital, Norfolk, Va., conferred with the Committee on Hospital Reimbursement on October 1965 and Leonidas H. Berry, M.D. on October 1965. Dr. John Kenney, chairman, Department of Dermatology, Howard University, Washington, D. C., Committee on Utilization Review on and on subsequent occasions. Dr. William Quinn, chief roentgenologist, Provident Hospital, Chicago, Committee on RAPP on Dr. Jeanne Spurlock, asst. prof. of psychiatry, University of Illinois, Committee on Psychiatric Services, November

For a period of two years, beginning December 1, 1965, your president was appointed by the Surgeon General of USPHS, with the approval of President Lyndon B. Johnson, to the 12-man National Advisory Council on regional programs against heart disease, cancer and stroke (P.L. 89-239) and served in the first sessions on December 20-22, 1965.

Your president was among the approximately 150 speakers selected from 850 physicians and health authorities invited to the White House Conference on Health November 3-4, 1965. His subject, part of a 4-man panel, was "Special Health Care Needs of Disadvantaged Population Group." The presentation was videotaped and telecast on CBS news in the New York and Chicago areas. Dr. W. Montague Cobb, immediate past president, NMA, appeared in

a panel discussion with title "Requirements for Professional Education." NMA member Dr. Alonzo Yerby, commissioner, Dept. of Hospitals, New York City, gave a major address before a plenary luncheon session - title "The Disadvantaged and Health Care," which was telecast nationwide by NBC.

On October 5, 1965, your president had stag dinner at the White House with President Lyndon B. Johnson, members of his cabinet and 100 business and professional men, heads of organizations and educational institutions.

On October 6, 1965, he was invited to witness the signing of the regional medical programs law P.L. 89-239, and received an appropriate pin.

Your president made a 22,000-mile lecture-demonstration tour of East and West Africa during the period November 26 to December 15. The tour was arranged by the U.S. Department of State Foreign Exchange Professorship Program. On the Eastern leg of the trip, he was the guest of Pan American Airways inaugural flight to East Africa. He visited eleven hospitals, including five medical schools, mostly with the facility of small five-seater planes. He demonstrated gastroscopy and gave illustrated lectures to hospital staff physicians and surgeons at the Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya, and the Lagos Medical School, Lagos, Nigeria. He led the discussion at the Convention of the Surgical Society of East Africa, Medical College of East Africa, Kampala, Uganda, on "Epidemiology of Duodenal Ulcer." Special hospital rounds were made at the Medical College of Ibadan, Nigeria, the Firestone and Government Hospitals at



Monrovia, Liberia, and the Medical College and Pasteur Institute of Dakar, Senegal. Your president held conferences with Health Ministers Hon. Joseph Otiende of Kenya medical staff; Hon. Samuel Adesuyi; Dr. Oto Lorin, staff of Nigeria; Hon. William Barkle Minister of Health, Hon. Ernest Eastman, Undersecretary of State of Liberia and U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Hon. Blu Hill Brown, many African doctors, U.S. Information Service and Cultural Affairs Officers and others. Our conferences were regarding possible cooperative programs between physicians and institutions in Africa, physicians and institutions in America with special reference to possible roles of physicians in the NMA. These explorations and recommendations will be made at the 71st Annual Convention of the National Medical Association in Chicago, August 1966.

Your president participated in a Symposium at the Annual Public Meeting of the Chicago Heart Association. Dr. Oglesby Paul, association president, Dr. Eric Oldberg, president, Chicago Board of Health, and the president of the American Heart Association on "New Directions of Programs Against Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke."

Your president submitted a requested article on "Virus Gastroenteritis" to appear soon in a new book, titled "Current Diagnosis," published by W.B. Saunders & Co.

By invitation your president visited three component societies since the Cincinnati convention. He delivered addresses at a joint assembly of members of Eastern Pennsylvania Medical Association and the Medical Committee for Human Rights in Phila. on January 16, 1966, and at the installation ceremonies of the

Houston Medical Forum, Houston, Texas, on January 23, 1966.  
He stood for recognition at the Washington, D. C. Medical  
Chirurgical Society's Founders dinner on November 10, 1965.

The president has worked with the local Chicago  
component society, the Cook County Physicians' Association  
and its convention arrangement committees and has held con-  
ferences with the president-elect, Dr. John L.S. Holloman,  
in preparation for an outstanding Chicago convention in  
August 1966.

The president wishes to thank all officers, chairman  
and members of the Trustee Board, the Speaker of the House of  
Delegates and especially the administrative secretary, Mr.  
Samuel C. Smith, for their cooperation and help during the  
first semester of this 1965-66 administration.

Respectfully yours,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

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