

May 10, 1966

W. G. A.
Liaison

Dr. F.J.L. Blasingame,
Executive Vice President
American Medical Association
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Doctor Blasingame:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence. I am enclosing herewith a summary of the activities and agreements between the Liaison Committees of the AMA and NMA during the last nine months.

Let me say that I am very pleased and encouraged at the progress which I think we have made during the current administration. As you know, I am in close touch with the Office of Equal Health Opportunity of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. As we have said in discussions before, it is our common goal that we may be able to solve problems between our organization to the end that other methods may be unnecessary.

Thank you for acknowledging the receipt of names of AMA and NMA members as nominees for AMA committees. Some curriculum vitae information was included with each name, and I am sure that more is being sent.

I am collecting data on dramatic instances of solution of discriminatory problems in hospitals, as well as dramatic instances of failure to remove such discriminatory practices. When these collections are made, they will be forwarded to your office for the purpose of disseminating such data as you may see fit, to all of your component and constituent societies, where problems exist. The NMA disseminates this type of information regularly through its Journal, but will complete the process in keeping with our common agreement.

I will call you with reference to agreement on the first step in the joint recruitment project. Our understanding is that your new committee would become active in devising its own methods and initiatives in trying to get rid of discrimination in memberships at the level of

constituent and component societies, and with reference to hospital discriminations against doctors and patients.

It is my sincere hope that we can move on all of these fronts by the time of the AMA meeting in June. I am sure we all know that the spotlight of the nation will be focused on activities with reference to human rights, perhaps more than ever before, at this convention. I hope that the presidents of the two organizations will be able to say at that time that we have made concrete progress in voluntary compliance.

I would like very much to have the AMA liaison group to meet as the guest of the NMA during the NMA convention, at a luncheon period on August 9, in the city of Chicago. This would be one day before I go out of office. Hopefully, we will have made substantial progress by that time, and that would be the third meeting within one year. I have written to top Health, Education and Welfare officials who have expressed their warm approval and delight in learning of progress at this level. Please let me know if a group of AMA people can meet with us at the noon hour on August 9.

With very best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

LHB/ld

cc: Dr. J. Appel
Dr. P. Hopkins
Dr. C. Hudson