

971 South 13th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

July 28, 1965

Hon. W. W. Dumas
Municipal Bldg.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Mayor:

We have taken into careful consideration the content of the meeting which we had with you several days ago. We feel that there is some possibility that positive progress can be made pursuant to your suggestions. It is in this light that we bring the following matter to your attention.

We are certain that you are aware of the conditions prevailing at the Baton Rouge General Hospital. These conditions are both unnecessary and unlawful. But the most dismaying aspect of the situation is its persistence in a period of alleged enlightenment and liberality.

The conditions of which I speak are simple to remedy in that no prolonged administrative negotiation or significant change in business policy or economic organization is required.

We therefore feel that it is fair, just and necessary that we insist that a positive written plan be submitted within the next two weeks outlining and implementing methods to achieve the following results:

- (1) The elimination of separate eating facilities for Negroes and whites;
- (2) Equal pay for Negroes and whites performing similar work;
- (3) Creation of a system of job promotion for Negro employees similar to that existing for white employees;
- (4) The prohibition of formal or informal harassment of employees asserting their constitutional rights;
- (5) The assignment of hospital personnel within the hospital without regard to the race of the patient or the personnel;
- (6) The assignment of patients to hospital facilities without regard to race in order to eliminate the following conditions:
 - (a) The existence of a Negro ward known as "4 South"

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- (b) The practice of placing Negro patients in the hallway of "4 South" when that section is filled in spite of the fact that proper facilities may be available in other parts of the hospital;
- (c) The lack of an infant isolation ward for Negroes;
- (d) Failure to isolate contagious diseases;
- (e) Failure to separate Negro disease patients from Negro surgery patients;
- (f) Lack of specialized nursing care.

In summary, we feel that these conditions demand immediate attention. However, we are considering your request that we communicate with you prior to taking any other action that we feel might be necessary. We are certain that you will see the merit of our complaint and take all necessary steps to rectify the conditions herein enumerated.

Respectfully,

MURPHY W. BELL, President
Baton Rouge Chapter, NAACP