

4-24-67

The birthday I had planned to spend in Washington, D.C., but a medical school report must be put first.

Carl, I believe the current storm is over. This is my fourth seeming Indian uprising in twelve years, each generated by discontents in a Federal organization and exploited by politicians on the make. I try to assess what the Indian has gained, and the whole is most confusing. Mostly, I suppose, the obligation to the Indian is helping call attention to the obligation a society has to all its people. ~~the~~ ^{the people} seem to be getting expressed, or it were, through being able to concentrate on a segment ^{of the population} that does not overwhelm immediately in its magnitude.

The gains which were made are the same ones Floyd Mayweather presented to his first Advisory to Surgeon General Group. That group listened politely and diverted the interests to facets of the PHS program of more concern to professionals. He came home frustrated but unable to define PHS to me. I am coming closer to comprehension today but also more deeply aware of the experience.

Maytubby was hating in his inability to really help PHS in its core purpose. Could have said "Corps purpose".

The one thing Maytubby talked which still is not solved is transportation to Indian health facilities. It seems to be no organization's responsibility, and the Indian cannot solve it individually.

Indians are gifted at the printing game. I have interested many publishers in hiring them. But as soon as they reach the stage of earning where they own a car, they neglect the job thru personal obligations to family - transporting emergency ill relatives to the Indian hospital. I've talked to the men who lose their jobs; I've talked to the publisher who refused to rehire. They are both caught in a pattern too big for me.

But ^{Maytubby's} ~~the~~ other objections: no services for the Indian wife of a white man and his children; Chickasaws having to be $\frac{1}{2}$ blood; and

proof of indigency before care - -
these are to be eliminated from IDH
procedure, which will require more more money,
but is timely as near as I can judge.

But the "feeling" I have about the men
who are announcing these new PHB
"compromises" is the same as Daytubby
had. He said, "I feel they are using
us, and I don't feel I'm for ~~what~~ where
they are heading."

I, too, felt that IDH ^{successfully} had turned the
"rumpus" into an opportunity to make
changes they had wanted to make,
but for the reason that this brings
the Indian Health setup even closer
to the one they visualize for the Nation
as a whole, with the underlying purpose
that of power over people.

It is this last that is difficult to define.
It comes across obliquely in such
talks as Rabreau to the Staff of O.C.,
Indian Health Area. I wish you could
have heard his tone. The only way I

can express it is to put it in different words, "O.K. You sons-of-bitches. you are to treat the Indian as if he were human. That's the PHS policy."

The fallacy is the "as if," and that the professionals who are listening mostly have the basic philosophy of treating all people as having individual worth and dignity. It's the character like Rabear in the group, and in the field⁺ at the hospital that lets us all down.

He talked in terms of "heads rolling" etc. as if he could chop them off in this strange Civil Service setup! (He was still the man who told the Sheraton management "I won't use the room you've supplied Mrs. Goodman for me for press conference; and I won't let anyone who works for me stay at this hotel!")

Carl, as long as PHS has men like this in charge, the majority of fine professionals are in as sad a plight

as the Indian, no matter how many restrictions are lifted to make budgets unworkable,

The absurdities go on - and so do I! I worked overtime to give Lawton hospital an informational booklet, recommending that at least 1000 be published to make good on the original investment. McBroger said 200 would be sufficient. At the last minute he allowed 300.

They were being sent to Lawton for employees, and Indian leaders were to get them by mail, when he held the whole thing up. They are still on the floor of my office. Have no idea why. (If he does not use them soon, his greed to have his photo on everything will be pointless.)

Also, when I suggested I should work with Carter Bradley to do the Lawton dedication publicly, I was told Lawton

could handle, well, I've worked to get the Lowton stuff as they are the best, but that's only one part of Oklahoma, nonmoney dedicated Lowton hospital on a Saturday with not one story in Oklahoma^{City} or Tulsa or Muskogee papers on Saturday nor Sunday - the day people would have enjoyed seeing at least the architect's rendering of the new structure.

So Carl, knowing my man (McBryer) I decided to use my travel fund balance by heading toward Kansas. Kansas Press Women meet in Dodge City this coming weekend. A group of the Topeka gals will pick me up in Wichita Friday morning and I will do Wichita, Topeka and Lawrence.

Honestly, I don't know enough to write you at this length, and am not real sure what I'm trying to tell you --- ~~but~~ except things have not changed in DPH.

I did get a freak chance to help Monmoney. Beames, as usual, had the lead, and when Monetahchi needed a speech to introduce Mike, and Beames had to ask his Secretary to provide the mon what he needed, she came to me!

So I wrote the Comanche's introduction of Monmoney (encouraging the Indian to let go and be himself) but using the facts Monmoney needs just now in the papers.

But there was no one, not even Carter Brodley, to be sure it made the papers.

Maybe it's just as well I head for Kansas?

But, as you know, all this makes me madder than hell. I hate waste, particularly of Sula.

Sincere regards to you,
your staff & your family.

4-25-67

P.S. Was able to get Monrovia dedication
on back page of April "Talking Leaves"
so feel less frustrated than when
I wrote this.