

December 4, 1967

Dr. James L. Dennis
Vice President and Dean
The University of Oklahoma
Medical Center
800 N. E. 13th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104

Dear Dr. Dennis:

I want to commend you on your good letter of November 30 to Mr. Piester and to thank you for sending me a copy. We certainly agree with you that now is not the time to be closing health institutions in Oklahoma. I know our friends in the Talihina area will appreciate the spirit of your letter. We must all work together for the development of our great state.

My warm personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M.C.
Third District, Oklahoma

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CA/Wnu



THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
MEDICAL CENTER

800 NORTHEAST THIRTEENTH STREET
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, 73104

November 30, 1967

Mr. Calvin Piester, President
First State Bank
Talihina, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Piester:

On November 18, 1967 the TALIHINA AMERICAN, in an article dealing with the Eastern Oklahoma Tuberculosis Sanatorium, quotes you as stating, "Our real battle is with the Oklahoma City proposal for a \$189 million dollar medical complex to house all state medical facilities." If you have been led to believe this, I can understand your feelings, but I hasten to point out that at no time has there ever been such a concept.

Our entire effort in developing the Oklahoma Health Center is directed towards three things (1) to effect economy and efficiency by mobilizing state, university, and private facilities that have long been located in Oklahoma City into a cooperative effort in which we could share many common services now being duplicated in this community and (2) to gird up the production of health manpower that is now in critical shortage in many areas of the state. Since the University is the only manufacturing plant for physicians and several other kinds of health workers, I guess you could say we have always been centralized, but our goal is to decentralize patient care at our center (we have been able to cut the projected number of required University Hospital beds by 1/3rd by getting the two private hospitals to build nearby so we can use some of their patients and facilities for teaching). (3) Our third goal is to get the manpower we produce out into the state so people can get 90 percent of their health care at the local level.

The enclosed paper on Health Care, The Small Town and the Future, expresses this philosophy very well. We have established a new division for family medical care to train family doctors and we have a pilot rural health project started in Grant County to explore methods to attract young people into rural communities. We also would like to establish a similar project in South Eastern Oklahoma, but have not had sufficient finances to date.

The University has no plans for Tuberculosis Sanatorium care--either now or in the future. I see no connection between our project and efforts to close the Sanatorium in Talihina--something about which I know nothing--except that I agree that now is not the time to be closing health institutions--although we might need to find ways to utilize them more effectively.

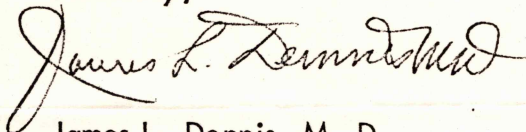
Incidentally, the figure of \$189 million dollars is for all of the building concerned in a long range plan and includes a great amount of private supplement. The University plans call for only

about 20 percent of this total and over a period of ten to twenty years.

You are obviously a good civic leader. It sounds to me as if we might need each other. We would be happy to have an opportunity to present the Oklahoma Health Center Concept. We did this recently for Oklahoma North East and for Oklahoma North West last spring. Both groups gave an enthusiastic response.

Best wishes to you and your colleagues as you strive to build up the most beautiful and promising area in Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James L. Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "D".

James L. Dennis, M. D.
Vice President and Dean

JLD:lj
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert C. Hardy
Senator Clem McSpadden
Senator James Hamilton
Senator Eugene Stipe
Senator Bryce Baggett
Senator Carl Albert
Miss Sula Goodman
Mr. Larry Rember
Miss Imogene Patrick
Dr. T. C. Points

Date ~~1116-67~~

McSpadden To Keynote Legislative Meeting Here

Talihina will host a meeting December 16 for legislators and other friends of the Eastern Oklahoma Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

It is anticipated that between 300 and 350 "key" persons from through-out Oklahoma will be present.

The E.O.S.S. Boosters has been re-organized and a war chest of \$1,000 is being assembled to defray expenses of the December 16 meeting.

The local sanatorium is again threatened with closure by consolidation with the sanatorium at Clinton.

Calvin Piester, First State

Bank president, heads the civic committee.

Upon advice from legislature and other important friends in Oklahoma, Talihina will take an aggressive stance rather than play a defensive role.

Piester said, "Talihina is opposed to the closing of any state institution and we anticipate that Clinton will join us in this fight."

"Our real battle is with the Oklahoma City proposal for a \$189 million dollar medical complex to house all state medical facilities."

"We believe," Piester continued, "that it is far better to

take medical facilities to the people instead of isolating medical facilities from the people thru centralization."

The E.O.S.S. Boosters will not only oppose centralization but will press a fight in the next legislative session for a much larger budget for the local sanatorium in order to bring salaries in line with other state institutions.

State Senator James Hamilton announced today that Calvin McSpadden, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, has accepted an invitation to address the December 16 banquet in Talihina.