

*H.C. Decker*

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October 31, 1970

Dear Hi,

When we last spoke, I became concerned that you were distressed by the negotiations between the College and the DMH. I think I understand your discomfort, and I am writing this note to bring up to date the state of the negotiations-- hoping thereby you may be able to accept Al Freedman's reluctance to make any separate 'deals' with Albany until the principal 'deal' is completed.

We have met with Mr. Dubois and Dr. Kesselbrenner on at least 6 occasions since late spring, the latest on October 1.

There have been at least 4 drafts of 'agreements', with the latest, as received from Albany, vitiating completely all previous agreements, and reducing the negotiations to the same state as they held in 1969, and earlier. It is clear that DMH is not interested in an affiliation, nor in providing any funds for teaching and training, nor in anything more than using the name of the College to bail them out of a training difficulty.

I had been hopeful that the College would establish a direct relationship with Kirby, such that our patients would be treated on a long term basis at Kirby; thereby allowing my staff to study the therapy of the severe mentally ill. We did not ask for a research ward; indeed, we insisted that there be a clinical center first, and that research only of a clinical nature be encouraged. The first project that I wished to encourage was the ECT project now at Gracie Square Hospital.

Since the negotiations have failed to achieve any closure for 1970-71, I have moved my project from Gracie Square to Metropolitan Hospital.

Both Al and I were dubious that DMH were sincere in their interest, but favored them to the extent of participating in the discussions. The matter has now been referred to the Commissioner with the statement that Al Freedman sees no point in meeting with anyone else. (I encouraged this decision).

Perhaps this will clarify the difficulty. I know now what you have contended with for many years, and admire your fortitude.

Peace, and Happy Flying.