

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

September 28, 1943.

General E. M. Watson,
Secretary to The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear General:

On April 9, 1941, more than two years ago, I wrote you a letter and enclosed a letter addressed to The President by Dr. Phil Russell, Chairman of the Defense and Preparedness Council, and President-elect of the American Osteopathic Association. I asked if you would be good enough to deliver my letter and the letter of Dr. Russell to The President.

My letter and the letter from Dr. Russell requested The President to take action to remove certain discriminatory rules of the administrative departments of the Army and Navy in order that educationally qualified Osteopathic physicians and surgeons might secure commissions in the armed forces.

On April 23, 1941, I received a letter from Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, in which letter he stated that the President had referred the letters to him, and that The President had requested him to furnish a memorandum in regard to the facts. Admiral McIntire further stated that he was in contact with Dr. Swope and other National officers of the Osteopathic Association. I enclose copy of Admiral McIntire's letter.

Since receipt of this letter I have had no further personal information from Admiral McIntire, or from any other official source. The only information I have had is what I have gained from the Congressional records. The following facts stand out in the official records of Congress:

1. Hundreds of applications of Osteopathic physicians and surgeons, with educational requirements equal to the Allopathic physicians, and licensed to practice unlimited medicine by the different states of the United States, have received the following reply:

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

-2-

"February 26, 1943

"From: The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.
To: Mr. Albert Donald Higgs, 4800 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Subject: Your application for appointment in the Medical Corps
of the United States Navy.

Reference: (1) Your letter dated February 23, 1943.

1. Receipt of reference (a) is acknowledged.
2. In view of the fact that there is no provision in United States Navy Regulations whereby it is possible to offer appointments in the Medical Corps of the Navy to Doctors of Osteopathy as such, reference (a), which indicates the offer of your services to your country, has been forwarded to the Procurement and Assignment Service for consideration.

Ross T. McIntire
Chief of Bureau

W. J. C. Agnew
By Direction."

I refer you to extracts from the Committee on Navy Appropriations, House of Representatives Bill for 1944, April 23, 1943, for evidence of facts.

2. That such refusal to commission Osteopathic physicians and surgeons is controlled by administrative rules, which rules are in direct disregard of the directives of Congress. These directives were issued by The Congress after many hearings, which were supported by adequate evidence.

3. The following directives of Congress appear in the below quoted public laws. These directives are plain and unequivocal that Osteopathic physicians and surgeons were to be considered on a parity with those of the medical profession (Allopaths).

Public Law 831 of the 70th Congress provides that the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Osteopathy shall be accorded the same rights and privileges under governmental regulations.

Public Law 558 of the 75th Congress provides that the term "physician" includes surgeons and Osteopathic practitioners within the scope of their practice as defined by state laws.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

-3-

Public Law 138 of the 77th Congress provides for the payment of interns in Army hospitals, who are graduates of reputable schools of Osteopathy.

Public Law 530 of the 77th Congress provides for the payment of Osteopathic interns in military hospitals.

Public Law 763 of the 77th Congress provides for the payment of commissioned medical officers who are graduates of reputable schools of Osteopathy.

Public Law 92 of the 78th Congress provides for the payment of commissioned medical officers who are graduates of Osteopathy.

Since there have been no commissions granted to Osteopaths, and directives (laws) have been issued by Congress providing for them, the above facts should be proof that the administrative authorities of the Army and of the Navy are arbitrarily refusing to follow the directives (laws) of the United States Congress.

4. That the Selective Service and the Manpower Commission, by many rulings, have declared that Osteopathic physicians and surgeons are essential to the health and welfare of the Nation, and that the Osteopathic profession was considered as a critical occupation.

5. The Army, the Navy and the United States Public Health Department have declared that there is an actual shortage of qualified physicians and surgeons. The government has appropriated millions of dollars in an effort to relieve this shortage, and has required the length of time to educate a physician to be shortened, and has subsidized the medical schools in an effort to increase the number of physicians. Yet, in the face of the directives (laws) of The Congress, the administrative departments of the Army and the Navy, and the United States Public Health Department have refused commissions to Osteopathic physicians and surgeons who have been educated with the same number of hours and have the same qualifications as those of the medical (Allopathic) schools.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

-4-

6. These facts are proof of the dissipation of manpower, public finances, and time, and have resulted in misuse by the Army, the Navy, and the Selective Service of 355 duly licensed osteopathic physicians and surgeons, and some 43 students of osteopathic schools of medicine, who have been inducted or forced into the armed forces. These men have not been given the privilege of participating in this war in a position for which they are qualified by training and education. Of the 355 licensed physicians, 55 have been commissioned in the Army, 18 commissioned in the Navy, all in non-medical capacities. These men have gained these commissions (in other than medical service) by the usual manner.

There are 115 of the 355 serving as pharmacist mates, the balance are in the ranks, which is a dissipation of finances, manpower, and good judgment, and a complete ignoring of education and training.

7. This administrative ruling is as consistent as would be a ruling that all chaplains should be of one denomination, and has resulted in qualified, educated physicians being used in the Army and Navy in positions that could be filled by any person who is inducted into the armed forces.

8. The Osteopathic profession seeks no favors of any administrative group of the Federal Government, but merely seeks to have the voice of Congress observed as the law provides, and that Osteopaths be placed on a parity with Allopaths.

I have always believed in a democratic form of government. If democracy is destroyed we will have in its place Nazism and it seems to me that some of its principles are now being exercised by the Army, the Navy and the United States Public Health Department, which are dictated, controlled, managed and handled by the American Medical Association.

I have always believed, and I still believe, that there is one power which the aggrieved democracy can resort to - I think it still operates - and that is The Congress. In other words, I have always believed that The Congress had the inherent power to

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

-5-

pass laws, which laws when passed were to be observed by all men - the Army, the Navy, the United States Public Health Department, and the American Medical Association. However, from the statements above made, it would seem that the groups named are above The Congress.

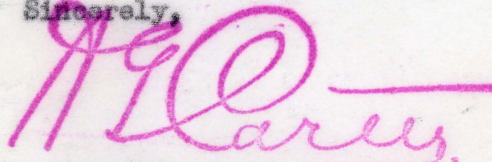
The Congress - from which our democracy receives its being and existence - has recognized the Osteopathic profession, but it seems the Army, the Navy, the United States Public Health Department and the American Medical Association are above the law.

I believe in the democratic principles of government. I hate, despise and condemn every form of Nazism and every form of European and Asiatic isms. We are fighting to destroy the isms of Europe and Asia in an effort to establish democratic principles in those countries. Our boys are paying the supreme price and we are pauperizing our people by the expenditures of billions of dollars, yet our government is winking at the things we are fighting to destroy by permitting the Army, the Navy, the United States Public Health Department and the American Medical Association to ignore the laws of Congress.

General, I realize it is an imposition to burden The President with details of this kind, but the cards are stacked against the Osteopaths and will continue to be stacked unless the President orders it otherwise. Therefore, I am trying to get the facts in this letter before The President, to the end that a remedy may be afforded the Osteopathic profession, and that capricious action by the Army, the Navy and the United States Public Health Department and the American Medical Association may be ended and democracy may be administered to all medical professions alike.

With apologies again for the length of this communication and with full appreciation and thanks for your courtesy in reading the letter, I remain hopeful of your help.

Sincerely,



AGC.KD