

RELEASE

LETTER RECEIVED BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FROM CARL R. GRAY, VETERANS' ADMINISTRATOR, CONCERNING CANCELLATION OF VETERANS' HOSPITAL PROJECTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. FEBRUARY 9, 1949.

February 4, 1949

Honorable J. Strom Thurmond
Governor of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Thurmond:

I have your letter of January 19, 1949, concerning the cancelling of plans for the veterans' hospital originally planned for Greenville and the addition to the Columbia Hospital.

Except for the explanation contained in the President's Budget Message, the Veterans Administration is unable to give you data on the policy thinking which prompted the President's determination to reduce the Veterans Administration hospital program by 16,000 beds.

When the President ordered this reduction of beds in the Veterans Administration hospital construction program, we were faced with the problem of reducing beds that had not gone into construction and retaining those beds where we could give the best medical service to veterans. In so far as possible we attempted to maintain a constant ratio of beds to veteran population, but found this could not be completely accomplished, because of progress already made in the program.

Since the problem of securing a fully qualified staff is greatest where medical school affiliation is impractical, we determined to recommend the most severe cuts where no medical school exists. This meant eliminating almost all hospitals not under contract in communities with no medical schools -- and reduction of beds located in communities with schools.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, JR.
Administrator

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