

Memorandum

March 5, 1926

To Mr. Smith

From Mr. Southmayd

The attached is a draft of a letter which I believe could be used for a number of the hospital appeals now on file. I do not sympathize greatly with a form letter, but believe in general that it may be used in this case if care is taken to see that it fits and is altered where it does not. Will you let me know what you think?

HJS:B
Att.

*Marjorie
Hacking Smith
Superintendent - Director
every
Rankin re cooperation.*

Q 11's by
Mr. Smith
as inserted. 3/5/76

In acknowledging your communication of requesting consideration in the rural hospital program of the Commonwealth Fund, I trust you will pardon the delay occasioned by the fact that the organization of the Division of Rural Hospitals was not effective until March first. ⁹ Since that date it has been determined that for the first year or two the activities of the Fund in this direction will be limited to assisting local areas, where no general hospital facilities are available, in the establishment of new hospital plants ^{for general purposes.} At this time the Fund does not contemplate giving aid in extending existing facilities, completing unfinished projects or making up operating deficits. For purposes of economical administration, a further restriction ~~is~~ ^{may be} imposed by ^a ~~the decision that~~ ^{for the first year} ~~in the early period of the program~~ ^{to confine} activities ~~will be confined~~ to the southeastern section of the country ^{for the first year.}

Considering all factors, the greater need of general hospital facilities where none exist, the fact that but two projects a year are provided for, the economy, and desirability otherwise of concentrating activities, you will no doubt appreciate the soundness of our policy.

Under the conditions imposed then, it is apparent that we can offer you no encouragement for assistance in the very near future, as the establishment of the first project in the southeastern section is already decided upon.

Your appeal, however, will be made a subject of permanent record, and should the availability of funds or change in policy enable us to give your appeal ~~better~~^{further} attention earlier than we anticipate at the present moment, you will hear from us.

Assuring you of our greatest sympathy with your ~~under-~~^{situation} taking and regretting that we are unable to assist you at the moment, I am

Sincerely yours,