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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 1, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The following notation was directed to you in the President's outbox:

"What is story on the delay in opening the Bronx Municipal Hospital?

A friend of mine says this is a new hospital which is standing idle and that people are furious."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Jimi Cannon

What is story on the
delay in opening the Bronx Municipal
Hospital?

a friend of mine says this is a
new Hospital which is standing idle &
that people are furious.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1976

INFORMATION
REQUESTED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON



SUBJECT:

Bronx Municipal Hospital

You asked me on Saturday about the status of the Bronx Municipal Hospital.

The information you have is correct: This new hospital is idle and many people are furious that it has not opened.

The reason it has not opened is that New York City's money problems require that it seek greater control of the hospital's budget before it commits funds to its operation.

At issue also is the entire municipal hospital system of New York City and who controls that system. The corporation controlling New York City's hospitals was set up under Mayor Lindsay and is relatively independent of control by the City administration. The issue being fought around the North Central Bronx Hospital is whether or not the City administration can bring under control the hospital system and its budget.

New York State, which is responsible to oversee New York City spending and commitments, is also concerned about a relatively uncontrollable independent hospital corporation; so the New York State Department of Health has declined to give this new hospital the certificate it needs to operate.

The hospital, known formally as the North Central Bronx Hospital, is one of the most modern in the city. The facility is a 420 bed, \$100 million medical center with a staff of 1400. It has an outpatient facility which has been in operation since this past summer, but the rest of the hospital and its staff is not permitted to treat patients without the State's operating certificate.

In sum, the New Bronx Hospital is enmeshed in the efforts of New York City and New York State to straighten out New York City's finances.

Since the Treasury Department is responsible to monitor New York City's financial situation, there is some possibility that someone in New York may attempt to blame this Administration. Thus far, this has not happened and the Federal government has not been directly involved in this dispute.