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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: JIM CONNOR

The attached letter was handed to the President yesterday at the West Virginia luncheon.

The President indicated that Mr. Harman should receive a response from him as promptly as possible. It's important.

Please prepare an appropriate response and return to this office.

cc: Dick Cheney
Jim Field

Attachment

Letter from Robert D. Harman
House of Delegates - Charleston, West Virginia
dated 6/24/76

Original to P.B.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR

FROM: DICK CHENEY



Jim, attached is a letter which was handed to the President today at the West Virginia luncheon.

Make sure it gets a President response as soon as possible. It's important.

Attachment



HOUSE OF DELEGATES

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL -- PHONE 348-3456

CHARLESTON 25305

June 24, 1976

BERT D. HARMAN
ONE BAKER PLACE
EYSER, W. VA. 26726

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

This letter is written in regards to a matter of extreme importance to the citizens of Keyser, Mineral County, West Virginia. This matter involves one Paul T. Healy, a medical doctor of Keyser, and who presently is confined to Allenwood Prison Farm in Montgomery, Pennsylvania. The confinement of Dr. Healy was upon his plea of guilty to a misdemeanor crime of failure to file an income tax for the taxable year of 1971.

I have been informed by Dr. Healy's counsel that Dr. Healy completely and fully cooperated with the special investigators of the Internal Revenue Service and voluntarily and freely submitted his office records to them in an effort to determine this tax liability. After their finding that a tax form was due, this matter was turned over to the Justice Department; and, subsequently, a criminal information was filed against Dr. Healy in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia. Dr. Healy at all times complied with the directions of the U. S. Federal Court and was arraigned in September of 1975 and thereafter on February 10, 1976, was sentenced to a term of one year in the federal penitentiary and a fine of \$8,000.00, which fine has now been paid.

There is an extreme need for competent medical practitioners in our area of the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and in our immediate locality there are only two general practitioners of medicine to serve the needs of the citizens of Keyser, Mineral County, and the surrounding territory of Allegany and Garrett Counties in Maryland. It is apparent that Dr. Healy's medical practice was quite extensive and he had the highest patient load of any of the general practitioners in the Keyser area. As soon as the matter of his sentencing was known to the public, approximately twenty-five hundred petitioners of a total population area of approximately eight thousand persons

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signed a petition requesting that Dr. Healy be permitted to continue his practice of medicine and serve the people in this area who greatly needed him for medical treatment. Also, the medical practitioners in this area made known to the proper authorities the need for his services.

Thereafter, the sentence of Dr. Healy to confinement was executed, and he was confined to the Federal Prison Farm at Allenwood on March 10, 1976, and has been confined until this time.

Also, Dr. Healy's attorney has informed me that in accordance with the rules of the Federal Court system Dr. Healy has made application within the one hundred and twenty day period for a modification of the sentence by the Federal Court; however, this has been denied and the time period under this rule has now expired, and the Federal District Judge can take no further action in this matter.

A parole hearing was held at Allenwood Prison Farm on June 7 and 8 of this year, and the Parole Board is presently considering a parole of Dr. Healy; however, at the time of the hearing Dr. Healy was informed that under the Federal guidelines, this was not a case where a parole could be granted since the original sentence was for one year. This is clearly incorrect in that the Federal guidelines permit a parole after one-third of the time has been served when the crime committed is a misdemeanor and the sentence is one year or less.

This is to further advise you that I receive frequent requests to know when Dr. Healy will be free to practice his healing arts and to take care of his patients who are without effective medical treatment in this area due to the overloading of patients by the other medical practitioners. Also, Dr. Healy's attorney tells me that he daily gets requests from people and inquiries to know when Dr. Healy will be released.

Since Dr. Healy has spent more than one hundred days confined in a Federal penitentiary, it would appear that the Federal Board of Probation and Parole should grant him parole and release from his present confinement in order that he can resume the medical care for the many elderly, veterans and low income patients that he has seen and cared for in the past. Dr. Healy has fully cooperated with the Internal Revenue Service personnel and recognizes his civil liability and duty to pay his taxes. It would also be in the best interests of all concerned that he be released so that he can resume his income and can make arrangements to satisfy his civil liabilities. I am also informed by Dr. Healy's counsel that there is presently confined at the same Allenwood Prison facility two

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford

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doctors who have been found guilty of medicare fraud, and these medical personnel have only received a ninety day confinement upon their crimes. It would seem that Dr. Healy has been punished enough and should be released from any further confinement since he has served more than three months. In the event that the Federal Board of Probation and Parole cannot favorably consider this matter, it is my request that upon evaluation of the need for medical personnel in our area, that Executive clemency be considered as to this case.

I would most respectfully urge your earliest consideration of this matter, as it is extremely urgent to the citizens and residents of the Keyser, Mineral County, West Virginia, area that some relief be given.

Most respectfully yours,



Robert D. Harman

RDH:blm