

**The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/5/76 - Filmed Message for the 81st Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the National Medical Association, Inc. (Includes briefing paper)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

## TAPING FOR CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GREET  
THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AS YOU ASSEMBLE FOR YOUR  
81st ANNUAL CONVENTION AND SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY. YOUR  
CONVENTION THIS YEAR HAS TAKEN ON SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE  
BECAUSE IT IS BEING HELD AT MEHARRY (MEH-HARRY) MEDICAL  
COLLEGE DURING THE SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL YEAR.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE TO OUR  
SOCIETY CANNOT BE TOO STRONGLY EMPHASIZED. THIS  
DISTINGUISHED INSTITUTION HAS TRAINED A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF  
THE BLACK PHYSICIANS NOW PRACTICING IN THE UNITED STATES.

MEHARRY'S UNIQUE ROLE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH,  
HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AND HEALTH MANPOWER TRAINING,  
HAS EARNED IT A PLACE OF DISTINCTION AMONG EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED IN MEETING AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

TODAY, LET ME PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING  
ROLE THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS PLAYED IN  
PROVIDING FOR THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF MINORITIES. YOUR  
ASSOCIATION AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAVE COMPILED A RECORD  
OF COMPASSIONATE SERVICE ALL AMERICA CAN BE PROUD OF.

BECAUSE OF YOUR VITAL INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ALL-IMPORTANT ASPECT  
OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE, I AM INVITING THE MEMBERS OF YOUR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO VISIT WITH ME AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS THE NATION'S  
HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DETAIL.

ALTHOUGH AMERICA'S HEALTH NEEDS ARE GREAT AND OUR  
RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE  
TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT PART IN ENSURING EVERY AMERICAN  
ACCESS TO ~~HIGH~~ QUALITY MEDICAL CARE.

THE GOOD HEALTH OF AMERICANS MUST REMAIN HIGH ON THE  
LIST OF OUR PRIORITIES AND ON THE AGENDA OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
THAT REMAINS BEFORE US.

FINALLY, I CONVEY TO DR. JASPER WILLIAMS,  
DR. ARTHUR COLEMAN, DR. LLOYD ELAM (EE-LUM)  
AND THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION, MY ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS  
TO MAKE QUALITY HEALTH CARE A REALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS●

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 5, 1976

12:00 noon

**EVENT:** National Medical Association, Inc. Eighty-first Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee

**DATE:** August 9, 1976

**PURPOSE:** The President was invited to address the 3,000 participants in the 1976 convention of this organization of Black doctors. Since it was not possible to accept, they requested a video-taped message.

**BACKGROUND:** The National Medical Association includes a majority of the Nation's 6,600 Black physicians. This year's meeting is particularly important to them because it is being held at the Meharry Medical College, the Nation's foremost Black oriented medical school, during the institution's centennial celebration. The N.M.A. feels that your remarks will do much to publicize both their organization and the unique contribution which Meharry has made in the development of minority physicians and community health services.

Your appearance before the convention was strongly recommended by Dr. Jasper Williams, the outgoing President of N.M.A. and a Republican.

Bill Baroody and John Calhoun recommended this message as well.