

REMARKS FOR CHAIRMAN POWELL
HONORING
VICE-CHAIRMAN STERLING H. FLY, JR., M.D.
January 8, 1983

MAY I REMIND YOU THAT JANUARY 11 WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT DATE FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE LEGISLATURE WILL CONVENE FOR ITS 68TH REGULAR SESSION, AND SECOND, THE CITIZENS OF THE UVALDE AREA WILL WELCOME BACK A BELOVED PHYSICIAN TO FULL-TIME PRIVATE PRACTICE. WHILE IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT "NO MAN'S LIFE, LIBERTY OR PROPERTY IS SAFE WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION", I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE CITIZENS OF UVALDE WILL HAVE A SENSE OF GENUINE COMFORT KNOWING THAT DR. STERLING FLY WILL BE TENDING TO THEIR MEDICAL NEEDS RATHER THAN TO THE BUSINESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM. THEIR GAIN IS OUR LOSS!

HISTORICALLY, THE MEDICAL PROFESSION HAS ALMOST ALWAYS HAD REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS. IN THE BEGINNING, IT WAS DR. ASHBEL SMITH, FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS, AND IN MORE RECENT TIMES, THE BOARD HAS BEEN SERVED BY SUCH DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIANS AS DR. FRANK CONNALLY, DR. MERTON MINTER, DR. E. T. XIMENES, AND DR. JOE NELSON. I WOULD SUBMIT TO YOU HOWEVER, THAT IN THIS LONG RECORD OF DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL REPRESENTATION, NONE HAS APPROACHED THAT RESPONSIBILITY WITH MORE DEDICATION, INSIGHT, FAIRNESS AND LOYALTY THAN STERLING FLY.

HIS INTEREST AND APPRECIATION FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS MAY BE TRACED TO HIS FATHER, WHO SERVED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN SABINAL AND CRYSTAL CITY AND AS PRESIDENT OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE. STERLING'S DEDICATION TO HIS MEDICAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM AT THE GALVESTON MEDICAL BRANCH RESULTED IN HIS MEMBERSHIP IN THE HONOR MEDICAL SOCIETY--ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA. HIS DEVOTION TO A HIGH QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE HAS RESULTED IN MAJOR RECOGNITION BY HIS PHYSICIAN PEERS. HE IS A FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PRACTICE, A DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FAMILY PRACTICE AND A CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF FAMILY PRACTICE AT THE U. T. MEDICAL SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO. WE HAVE BEEN WELL SERVED BY HIS INTEREST IN THE ACADEMIC PROCESS, HIS UNDERSTANDING OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE VALUE OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE.

STERLING'S CONCERN FOR THE ART AS WELL AS THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE HAS LED TO A SERIES OF BOARD CHAIRMEN TO ASSIGN HIM, BOTH ALONE AND IN CONCERT WITH OTHER REGENTS, THE ARDUOUS TASK OF LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE WITH OUR NON-OWNED TEACHING HOSPITALS. HE HAS REPRESENTED US WELL FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS IN IMPORTANT AND FAR-REACHING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF HERMANN HOSPITAL, THE DALLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT AND THE BEXAR COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT. DURING HIS TENURE, EACH OF THESE PRIMARY TEACHING HOSPITALS HAS PRESENTED ADMINISTRATIVE, FISCAL AND PATIENT CARE PROBLEMS IN WHICH HIS EXPERTISE BOTH AS A PHYSICIAN AND AS SPOKESMAN

FOR ACADEMIC MEDICINE HAS BEEN WELL TESTED. TODAY, OUR TEACHING HOSPITAL RELATIONSHIPS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE PEACEFUL OR MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF QUALITY MEDICAL CARE, AND FOR THIS WE OWE STERLING A RESOUNDING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND APPRECIATION.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE PRESIDENTS OF OUR HEALTH COMPONENTS HAVE EACH DEVELOPED A CLOSE AND HAPPY RELATIONSHIP WITH DR. FLY. THEY RECOGNIZE IN HIM A SYMPATHETIC LISTENER AND AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION AND THE QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE. HE HAS SPENT MANY HOURS AT THESE COMPONENTS, REVIEWING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, COUNSELING ON PERSONNEL MATTERS, ADVISING ON MEDICAL STAFF PROBLEMS AND, WHERE NECESSARY, STANDING IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT IN TIMES OF STRESS AND DIFFICULTY. IF WE ARE SADDENED TO LOSE STERLING AS A FELLOW REGENT, OUR FEELINGS ARE SHARED IN AT LEAST EQUAL MEASURE BY OUR HEALTH UNIT PRESIDENTS. THEY ARE LOSING AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE WITH THE PRIVATE PRACTICE COMMUNITY, THE TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS.

WHILE IT IS APPROPRIATE TO HIGHLIGHT STERLING'S SERVICE ON THE BOARD RELATED TO THE HEALTH COMPONENTS, HE HAS BEEN CALLED TO SERVE IN A VARIETY OF OTHER WAYS. HE HAS SERVED AS A REGENTAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD FOR LEASE OF UNIVERSITY LANDS, AND IN NOVEMBER 1981, WAS ELECTED TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THAT GROUP--THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1947 THAT A REGENTAL MEMBER HAS BEEN SO HONORED.

IN JANUARY 1981, THIS BOARD ELECTED HIM AS ITS VICE-CHAIRMAN IN RECOGNITION OF HIS VALUED COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE IN THE OVERALL DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM.

IT HAS BEEN WISELY SAID THAT:

"TACT, SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING ARE EXPECTED OF THE PHYSICIAN, FOR THE PATIENT IS NO MERE COLLECTION OF SYMPTOMS, SIGNS, DISORDERED FUNCTIONS, DAMAGED ORGANS AND DISTURBED EMOTIONS. HE IS HUMAN, FEARFUL AND HOPEFUL, SEEKING RELIEF, HELP AND REASSURANCE."

IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THAT DESCRIPTION, YOU HAVE BEEN THE PHYSICIAN TO THE BOARD, AND WE HAVE BEEN WELL SERVED.

THESE REMARKS WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A SINCERE WORD OF APPRECIATION TO BOBBIE, WHO IN A MOST KIND AND GRACIOUS WAY HAS ALLOWED US TO IMPOSE UPON THOSE ALWAYS SCARCE FAMILY TIMES. SHE HAS TAKEN OUR MESSAGES, TRACKED DOWN HER BUSY HUSBAND, AND GRACED OUR SOCIAL OCCASIONS WITH HER CHARM AND FRIENDLINESS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING, AND FOR ALLOWING US TO SHARE STERLING FOR THESE PAST SIX YEARS.

BEGINNING NEXT WEEK, BOBBIE AND STERLING WILL BE FREE FROM THE DEMANDS OF THE BOARD AND OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM. THEY WILL HAVE MORE TIME TO ENJOY THAT NEW HOUSE IN UVALDE WITH THE

WELL-STOCKED TANK JUST A SHORT WALK FROM THE PORCH. MY PREDICTION IS THAT THE BASS AND CATFISH WILL SOON BE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE TIME AND ENERGY THAT FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS HAS BEEN ENJOYED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS, AND IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FOR A DISTINGUISHED TERM OF SERVICE, MAY I PRESENT THESE MOMENTOS TO VICE-CHAIRMAN STERLING FLY, AND HIS LOVELY WIFE, BOBBIE.