

THE NATIONAL HEART COMMITTEE

237 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

Murray Hill 3-4276

Executive Committee

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Emerson Foote
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Gen. William Donovan
Mrs. Albert D. Lasker
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Norman Winter
Executive Secretary

March 18, 1948

Mrs. Albert D. Lasker
La Quinta Hotel
La Quinta, California

Dear Mary:

I am sure that you will be happy to know that telegrams from the sponsoring list of the National Heart Committee have been sent to all members of the committees in the Senate and House that are considering our legislation. These telegrams went out today in time to reach the Health Committee of the Senate which was holding a meeting this afternoon. This was a pre-arranged plan of action projected with the help and advice of Senator Pepper, Anna Rosenberg and Emerson Foote.

We are at this moment trying to force a statement from Senator Smith of New Jersey concerning hearings. We should like the statement, if possible, to be predicated upon the receipt of our telegram. This is our aim. If we cannot get Senator Smith to issue a statement, we will then try and get the four Senators who introduced the legislation to issue a statement themselves. As concerns the above, what I failed to mention is that we are also trying to get Senator Smith to make a joint statement with Representative Wolverton. This would tie both legislative bodies together on the heart question.

I shall speak with Mrs. Rosenberg this afternoon in reference to her contacting Matt Connelly in Washington for names of Missouri Republicans that may be of use to us in dealing with Representative Donnell. I am trying, at this time, to follow through on this matter, by locating some picture men from that section of the country that could suggest people that may be of assistance to us.

Mrs. Albert D. Lasker

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The list that was sent you yesterday concerning our sponsoring group may have slight inaccuracies. Please replace that list with one that will be forthcoming almost immediately. With the addition of the following three names that accepted today, our sponsor list totals 70. (Hugh Martin, Merrill Meigs, George W. Weber, Jr.)

I am sorry that the release that was sent out got so little play in the papers. However, we haven't as yet heard from the clipping service, so don't know what the situation is over the rest of the country. Just as soon as we do get clippings, they shall be sent along to you. Lowell Thomas, Cecil Brown, NBC and Mutual News, and the early morning husband-and-wife teams were among some of the radio coverage that we got. I was able to cover those mentioned above.

There seems to be an extreme amount of optimism for hearings, which Senator Pepper and Senator Bridges both think will take place the first week of April in the House, and about the middle of April in the Senate. Mr. Bridges happened to be in New York yesterday, and was seen by Dr. Simms, to whom he told the above. Dr. Simms, on the telephone, told me that he had suggested changes in the legislation to Mr. Bridges, and Bridges seemed very much interested in them. I asked Dr. Simms if he would be kind enough to send me a copy of the letter that he will send to Mr. Bridges concerning these changes so that we may be abreast of what he has in mind. Some of these doctors, by the way, are not too much in favor of any heart legislation by the government, especially where it concerns the Public Health Service. Dr. Levy is one who has not as yet committed himself to a furtherance of our aims.

I have not as yet heard from Bob Hope, and wonder if there is anything that you can do on this matter. He has received our telegram and our follow-up letter, and, despite the fact that he is on the air each week, and I know he is alive, there still is the question of why he does not answer correspondence, if it is even to say "no".

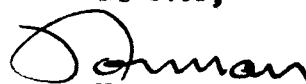
As for your telegram with the names suggested by Judge Robert N. Gorman of Cincinnati, it is most difficult for us to determine just what the business affiliations are of Paul Walter, George Weber Jr., and Hugh Martin. I wonder if you can clear this up for me. We are returning the telegram herewith as per your request.

I heard from your office concerning the fact that you thought it might be wise for me to go down to Washington and see various people. I shall check up on this with Anna Rosenberg as soon as I can contact her.

I think I have just about written myself dry and shall call you at LaQuinta 11:00 a.m. your time on Monday, March 22.

Thank you very very much for keeping me as informed as I am, and I hope both you and Mr. Lasker are enjoying yourselves.

As ever,


Norman Winter

NW:pb

Mrs. Albert D. Lasker

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P. S. The reason why the last letter to you did not go airmail was due to the fact that we were experiencing an extremely heavy snow and ice storm, and we didn't know just how soon it would clear up. Be assured I would like these letters on their way to you just as fast as the plane can carry them.