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There seems to be some evidence that there is some sentiment opposing physicians in April 8, 1943 early in the State Health Department of New Jersey.

The Surgeon General states that on the 10th of April, 1943, the U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C. (Attention Medical Director J. G. Townsend, Industrial Hygiene Division) has been carefully considered. A letter dated April 6th, from the Industrial Hygiene Division dealing with proposed personnel changes of Industrial Hygiene personnel assigned to the State of New Jersey, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that plans are being made for assigning Acting Assistant Surgeon J. Walter Hough to duty elsewhere and that consideration is being given to the assignment of Passed Assistant Industrial Hygiene Engineer (R) Willis G. Hazard to assume charge of the Industrial Hygiene Service of New Jersey.

It is the feeling of the District Director that although Doctor Hough is a competent individual, that he lacks certain qualities of leadership that are important in an individual who is heading up so important a place as a Bureau of Industrial Hygiene in a State Health Department. For that reason it is felt that perhaps it would be desirable to transfer Doctor Hough to other duties.

It is felt that Mr. Hazard is an unusually competent person. He is well qualified from many standpoints and has an excellent personality. The principal objection that the District Director can see to the assignment of Mr. Hazard as Chief of the Industrial Hygiene Service, as is well known to the Washington office of the Public Health Service, is that for many years public health work in New Jersey has been dominated by non-professional personnel, particularly persons who are not physicians. At the present time with the exception of Doctor Hough and Doctor Kagon, who are assigned to the Industrial Hygiene Service, Doctor Carl E. Weigle is the only full-time physician connected with the entire State Health Department in New Jersey. The local health administration work is under the supervision of Mr. W. H. MacDonald. He is not a physician and has had no formal training in public health work. It will be further recalled that many of the city and local health officers throughout New Jersey are not trained public health workers and by far a majority of them are not physicians.

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There seems to be some evidence that there is some sentiment opposing physicians in public health work in the State Health Department of New Jersey.

For these reasons the undersigned feels quite strongly that it would be a mistake not to have a physician in charge of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Service of New Jersey. The development of this work in such a highly industrial State as New Jersey warrants especial efforts to secure a suitable physician for this purpose. It would seem possible that some medical officer of the Public Health Service who is now assigned to duty elsewhere could be found to take this important assignment in New Jersey. The District Director suggests that due consideration be given to the above suggestion.

If after careful study of the matter it seems impossible to find another medical officer of the Public Health Service who could be assigned to head up the work in New Jersey, then the undersigned would interpose no particular objection to Mr. Hazard being designated as Chief of this work.

This matter has been discussed by telephone with Doctor J. M. Carlisle, a member of the State Board of Health of New Jersey, who has been much interested in this work and who has given great assistance in securing the state appropriations for the coming year. Doctor Carlisle indicates that in general he concurs with the views expressed above.

Respectfully,

R. C. WILLIAMS
Senior Surgeon
Director, District No. 1

RCH:jh

CC - Assistant Surgeon General J. W. Mountin
CC - Medical Director L. R. Thompson
CC - Doctor J. M. Carlisle

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State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Trenton

April 5, 1943

R. C. Williams, M. D., Sr. Surgeon
Director, District Number One
U. S. Public Health Service
Sub-Treasury Building
Wall, Nassau and Pine Streets
New York City

Dear Doctor Williams:

On February 1, 1943, the following communication was addressed to you:

"At a meeting of the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey held January 12, 1943, attention was called to the many cases of tuberculosis which are being discovered through physical examination at Army induction centers and the examinations in industrial plants conducted by the X-ray unit loaned to this Department by the Public Health Service. As you are aware the Department does not have and cannot obtain the services of a physician to follow-up these cases so that adequate disposition may be secured. I was instructed to communicate with you and request the assignment by the U. S. Public Health Service on a lease-lend basis of a physician for the purpose outlined."

Will you kindly inform me if there is any possibility of the assignment of a physician to this Department as described in said letter.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. Lynn Mahaffey

J. Lynn Mahaffey, M. D.
Director of Health

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CC Mr. MacDonald