

WALTER L. PETERSON, M. D.
SUPERINTENDENT



SAN ANTONIO STATE TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL

P O. BOX 7206

HACKBERRY STATION

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

February 3, 1958

Hector P. Garcia, M. D.
American G. I. Forum of the U. S.
3024 Morgan Avenue
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Doctor Garcia:

For some time I have been aware of some of your activities concerning this hospital. Some of these activities do not have the standard of ethics we usually expect from another M.D.

This is a State hospital and you as well as any citizen has a perfect right to visit us at any time to see for yourself just how the State treats its patients. This you have not done and as a consequence you have become confused by information received from psychotic and/or recalcitrant quarantined patients. You have proceeded to make unwarranted promises and to give illogical advice to our patients without the courage or decency to see me about your motives. Constructive criticism is welcome but subversive activities to create unrest among difficult patients behind my back can hardly be considered ethical.

You made a statement in one of your letters to Senator Gonzales as follows: "I will give them hell right on the spot." To whom are you going to give such treatment? Such irresponsible correspondence would probably interest your County Medical Society.

Your most recent letter of January 29, 1958 to Abram Esparza was another incident intended to champion Ward 7 and its patients behind my back. If you have something to say why haven't you the courage to write to me?

You have become the champion of Ward 7, our quarantine Ward. On this locked Ward we have retained such patients as criminals, narcotic addicts, alcoholics, and other recalcitrants who are health hazards to their families and communities. They are brought here by the County

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Sheriffs and obviously they are unhappy and wish to escape if possible. They are difficult enough to handle without your efforts to incite them to further dissatisfaction.

Your friend Esparza wants outside privileges so he can be with his common-law wife on another ward. Since we do our best to retain these people we have not yet seen fit to trust this man with outside privilege. Obviously he is unhappy.

If you have any suggestions in regard to improving the service of this hospital I would welcome them. These suggestions should be made after you have visited us and should of course be given directly to me. Your present method of operation is definitely not appreciated.

May we expect you?

Sincerely,


Walter L. Peterson, M. D.
Superintendent

WLP:mh