

# Bethune-Cookman College

Daytona Beach, Florida

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, PRESIDENT  
BERTHA L. MITCHELL, SECRETARY-TREASURER  
ATTY. THOMAS T. COBB, ENDOWMENT TREASURER

January 27, 1942

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Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am today in Florida in conference with representatives of the State Tuberculosis Board. We find that there is still a hitch in the application of the Board for funds with which to construct a 200 bed unit in the State Sanatorium for Negroes. The complication seems to be between the Public Works Administration and the Public Health Service.

Dr. C. L. Williams of the Federal Security Administration has approved the unit as a Defense Project and recommends a 50-50 basis by the Public Works Administration. Col. Gilmore, of the Public Works Administration, has repeatedly promised to request certification of the project from the Public Health Service. The Public Health Service agreed to issue the necessary certification upon the request of Col. Gilmore. Col. Gilmore recently wrote you, stating that projects such as this addition at the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium are not the intention of Congress.

The members of the Tuberculosis Board and I are very much concerned over this project. There is already a great lack of beds for Negroes in the Florida Sanatorium. The waiting list for the available beds has been extended. In addition, the State Defense Council has designated the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium as a base hospital and plans are already under way to evacuate approximately 150 patients. This will certainly congest facilities for Negroes, which are now in deplorable enough state!

Now, Mrs. Roosevelt, will you please ask Col. Gilmore to send in the request for the certification of this project? Dr. Parron is waiting for the request from Col. Gilmore, which he promises will be forth coming everytime Dr. Parron requests it of him. These poor people are in such dire need of facilities for the salvation of their lives, that I feel very free in making this additional appeal to you. Do make one more desperate effort to get this project through. We know you will do all you can - we can always depend upon you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Mary McLeod Bethune*  
Mary McLeod Bethune.

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