

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Dr. John C. Cutler

Date: December 4, 1952

FROM: Eleanor N. Walker

SUBJECT: Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Male Negro, Macon County, Alabama

It seems to me that after 20 years we have too much of a stake in this study to let it slide now for the sake of a few more dollars. I have never felt that Nurse Rivers was an adequate "policeman" for these people. I know the colored people in the South and one shouldn't expect 100% effort from any of them unless they are under constant supervision. In a community of this type where everyone knows everybody's business I can't see how we could have lost from contact so many of the group if Nurse Rivers had been even moderately interested in perpetuating this study.

I would like to spend several weeks with her and prepare from the records and from whatever source available, an informative list of the "lost" study individuals and try to locate some of them through a series of letters to the various local health departments. In the case of those residing in Alabama it should be simple enough to have them located and examined.

The assignment of a young investigator to the County Health Department to absorb some of Nurse Rivers' duties doesn't appear to be the answer, because he is here today and gone tomorrow. Would it be possible to think about tying in more closely with the Institute staff in some way. Certainly something should be done right now to put this study on a firmer foundation if it is determined it should be continued.