September 15th, 1943,

Senator John H. Bankhead,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This letter is to advise you of an alleged situation here, which if true (and I believe it is true) is an affront to the white people of Alabama, and the other Southern States, and one which, if not corrected will, in my opinion, just as sure as the day follows the night, lead to some serious racial trouble here.

I am reliably informed that an Executive Order has been issued which prohibits, in Northington General Hospital, any segregation as between the races; that in compliance with this Executive Order, white and negro patients are being, or will be, placed side by side in the same ward; that white employees, ladies included, are, or will be, required to take their meals in the same dining room with negroes; that the barber shop to be operated by white barbers will be required to render barber services to negroes; and that when the hostess house is opened negro women who come here to visit negro patients will have the same accommodations in the hostess house, as are there afforded white visitors.

This situation is unthinkable to me, and to all true Southerners. The South simply will never accept social equality between the races, and the time has come for those who seem determined to force it upon us, (and this Executive Order is just one more step in that direction), to realize that, in so endeavoring, they are rendering a great disservice to the negro, and aiding in destroying the good and proper relations which now exist between the races in Tuscaloosa, and in most other sections of the South.

The negro patient in this hospital should, of course, receive just as good treatment as does the white patient. The negro employee, and the negro visitor should receive as good accommodations as are received by white employees and visitors, but for God's sake let the negroes receive this treatment and these accommodations, separate and segregated from white people.

In the names of your ancestors and mine, who in the dark days of Reconstruction, following the war between the States, aided in wresting the South from Carpetbagger and Negro Rule, and in delivering

the South back into that hands of the white man- where it always belonged, and where it must always remain- I ask you to at once get busy, and see to it that the intolerable condition which prompts this letter is effectively and promptly put at an end.

I say to you, without fear of successful contradiction, that what I am asking you to do is one of the most important duties immediately confronting you, as a representative of the people of Alabama.

This letter is being written by me to each Senator and Representative from our State.

With all good wishes, and firmly relying on you to at once concern yourself about the situation here, and to keep it before you until it is promptly corrected, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John D. McGuire

Race

McQUEEN & McQUEEN
LAWYERS
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

JOHN D. McQUEEN
JOHN D. McQUEEN, JR.

September 17th, 1943,

RECEIVED
SEP 20 1943
Governor's Office

Hon. Chauncey Sparks,
Governor of Alabama.
Montgomery, Alabama.

Dear Chauncey:

In Re: Segregation of the races at Northington General Hospital.

Under date of September 15th I wrote you with reference to the above matter, and enclosed therewith a copy of a letter I had written to Senator Bankhead, Lister Hill and each member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.

I now herewith hand you copy of a letter I have today written to Senator Bankhead, and I have written this identical letter to Lister Hill and the other members of the Alabama Delegation in Congress. The letter, copy of which I herewith enclose, explains itself.

If the efforts which I mentioned in the letter, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, do not result in bringing about segregation, and if segregation be not adhered to, in this hospital, I will write you further on this subject, as I know you will agree with me that there must in fact be a segregation of the races at this hospital.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

John D McQueen

September 17th, 1943,

Senator John H. Bankhead,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

In Re: Segregation of the races
at Northington General Hospital.

Under date of September 15th I wrote you at length with reference to the above matter.

Please understand that this letter is not in any sense of the word to be construed as a withdrawal from the position taken by me in my said letter of the 15th.

I am glad, however, to advise you that on yesterday afternoon a committee, of which I was a member, had a very satisfactory conference with Col., Makel, who is in charge of the above referred to hospital, and found that he had already taken some steps, and was taking other steps toward segregation.

This morning I also had a lengthy conference with Col., Henry J. M. Smith and Col., Lary, who had been sent here from Atlanta, for the purpose of investigating the situation at said hospital.

I now believe that a sincere effort will be made by those in authority to correct the situation about which I wrote you, and I sincerely hope these efforts will result in so correcting this situation.

I am sure that you agree with me that there must in fact be a segregation of the races at this hospital, and if this does not come about, and segregation be not adhered to, I will write you further on this subject.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

John D. McEachin