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# PORTLAND COMMUNITY CHEST

OREGON BUILDING  
TELEPHONE BROADWAY 5452  
PORTLAND, ORE.

July 11, 1928

*COPY*  
*Report of Meeting of Peoples Institute*  
*Committee before the County Commissioners July 10, 1928.*

Dr. Richard B. Dillehunt  
707 Medical Arts Bldg.  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Dr. Dillehunt:

I am sorry that you could not have been present at the meeting of the County Commissioners yesterday morning for it was a meeting of great interest and consequence. There were present the following County Commissioners, Amedee Smith, Grant Phegley, and Clay Morse; R. L. Sabin representing the Tax Conservation Commission; Dr. Cliff of Multnomah County Hospital; and from the Free Dispensary, Mrs. A. E. Rockey, Mrs. James Gillison, Miss Valentine Prichard, and myself. The budget of the Free Dispensary was presented and discussed at some length. It seemed to be the sense of the meeting that the \$1500 which the county heretofore has given to the Free Dispensary, for county work, was not commensurate with the large amount of service which is given to Multnomah County patients. A statement in the budget indicated that 97% of the work of the Free Dispensary was for Multnomah County patients having a residence of more than three months in the county.

It was clearly indicated, however, by the County Commissioners, that their disposition was favorable toward putting in a larger sum for the Free Dispensary in their 1929 budget. This would have to be submitted to the Tax Conservation Commission by the first of October, and they would not be sure that this latter body would grant this request until their final report was given about the first of December. Mr. Sabin expressed his personal approval of the county assuming a larger portion of its rightful share of this necessary health work, but he said that, of course, he could not speak officially for the Tax Commission.

In view of the uncertainty as to how large a responsibility the County of Multnomah can take this year in the work of the Free Dispensary, it was agreed that the usual budget for the Free Dispensary should be presented to the Community Chest; then if Multnomah County granted more than \$1500, which it is confidently believed that they will do, then only the difference between what the County gives and what the total need is would be accepted from the Chest. It was indicated that possibly the County would give an increasing appropriation each year until the most of the sum which is now received from the Community Chest, would come from County tax money. But it was recognized that there are certain educational and public-health aspects of the Free Dispensary work which none of the participating agencies can undertake; consequently it is likely that there will always be a small request made of the Community Chest to carry on this work and emergency work which ~~can~~ not be legally paid for from county funds.

Dr. Richard B. Dillehunt #2

The spirit of the meeting was exceedingly co-operative and friendly. It is a satisfaction to feel that all the elements represented are so committed to the value and the necessity of health work; and that the County Commissioners, Medical School, and Free Dispensary are a unit in their desire to do this piece of work as effectively and as economically as possible. One point that was brought out that seemed to me important, was that the Free Dispensary can always command a great deal of volunteer work which is very valuable and which would not be given, of course, if this were strictly a county enterprise.

I am sending a copy of this letter to all those who attended the meeting, to E. B. MacNaughton, E. C. Sammons, and Hugh Herdman representing the Community Chest, and to Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett, Chairman of the Free Dispensary Board.

Sincerely yours,

*Gene H. Gerlinger*

Mrs. G. T. Gerlinger  
Assistant Campaign Director

GTG:MT

*Dear Mrs. Corbett - You will be  
interested in this when you again  
feel like taking up business  
affairs - and shape that will be  
soon.  
Yours faithfully,  
Gene H. Gerlinger.*