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Presentation: Remarks University Hospital of Jacksonville Meeting, 1973-08-08

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REMARKS

University Hospital of Jacksonville Meeting 8-8-73 G. Dekle Taylor, M.D.

Crises occur in all evolutionary processes. The University Hospital is no exception. Darwin demonstrated that with each new crisis a species is weakened or strengthened. In my opinion, the University Hospital now faces such a crisis.

Beginning June 4, 1870, as the Duval County Hospital and Asylum, this institution has evolved through the stages of a so called "poor house", "pest house", Duval County Hospital, Duval Medical Center, and has now arrived at the stage of a splendid institution of which this community may justly be proud. Its potential is great! Its future depends on the wisdom of those in this room, other health leaders, our city and state government and an interested citizenry who should all benefit directly or indirectly from the operation of the University Hospital of Jacksonville.

The evolution of this institution has been directly effected and I firmly believe to its betterment by the concept of JHEP and the necessity for a fulltime faculty. Each of these concepts were envisioned by their creators to be a part of the total community health care pattern, and not responsible to only one institution.

During the birth pains, the possibility of the "Town-Gown" syndrome was considered. It was hoped this would not ensue because of the participation of the fulltime men at the Duval Medical Center in the JHEP program involving all affiliated hospitals. It was hoped this would in no way weaken the dedicated and energetic voluntary staff which had for so long and so ably served the Duval Medical Center. Such a concept would instead attract more physicians to participate in the teaching program at the Duval Medical Center and all other hospitals thereby benefitting not only the indigent patient but all patients through an expanded intern and residency program of excellence.

A crisis in the evolution of the Duval Medical Center occurred in 1963,- 1964. Many of the citizenry were disillusioned with the old Duval Medical Center and the idea of an indigent hospital in general. Many in this room played a great part in convincing the citizenry they should support the 20 million dollar bond issue enabling the present University Hospital of Jacksonville.

We informed the citizens that the new Medical Center would benefit every citizen in this community and not just the indigent. This new medical center would be the hub in the medical community which would radiate out through the JHEP teaching program to all affiliated hospitals in Jacksonville. The fulltime men at the new institution would play an active part in the teaching program of each hospital.

I feel the Hospital Authority and the City Government are morally responsible to such a concept. Both should broaden their sights and realize they are responsible not only for excellent medical care for the indigent but for the direction, financing, and management of a University Hospital of Jacksonville of such excellence that the entire community will be benefitted as promised.