

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

MINNEAPOLIS 14

May 26, 1945

DEAN OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES

Brig. Gen. Fred W. Rankin
AUS Office of Surgeon General
War Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Fred:

Thank you for your pledge of \$1000 toward the Mayo Memorial Fund. I feel as you do that it is a great privilege to have a part in provision of a Medical Research Center as a memorial to these two great men of American medicine.

The progress of the fund raising campaign is in general satisfactory although we had hoped by this time to be farther along than we are toward the goal of a million dollars. The difficulty was that the first action of the Senate Finance Committee to our request for a million dollar state appropriation was "indefinite postponement". The final action of the legislature was an appropriation of \$750,000 but the initial postponement resulted in complete cessation of work by the committees which are soliciting private contributions within the state. That meant not only the loss of two valuable months but also the loss of momentum. As you know it is difficult to reactivate a project of this sort once it has slowed down.

A report of the contributions received up to May 15 shows a total \$400,252 in 291 gifts. Most of this has come in substantial contributions from business firms in Minneapolis. Contributions from individuals are beginning to come in but they, of course, will add up much more slowly.

Mr. Shimp, the organizational director for the Committee of Founders, and I have been talking about the possibility of a meeting in Washington to present the Memorial project to former fellows of the Foundation and graduates of our Medical School. There are quite a number of these in Washington and it seems to us that it might be worthwhile to invite them to dinner some evening for a discussion of this enterprise. What do you think of that suggestion?

With warm personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

H. S. Diehl

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