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MRS. FLETCHER BROWN
1 COAST DRIVE
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, CALIFORNIA 90274

Dear Mrs. Brown:

I have been prompted by the recent news story of Feb. 21 in the Los Angeles Times regarding the close friendship which you and Mr. Brown have enjoyed for years with President and Mrs. Nixon, to write to you at this time.

For some time, I have been acting as correspondent for a group of educators, who were later joined by medical and paramedical organizations; also by members of certain business men's service clubs, all interested in gaining Presidential recognition of Charles LeRoy Lomax, M.D., for whom we seek the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Lomax, now 92, is the very-active founder of OrthoMedic Hospital in Los Angeles (2400 S. Flower Street), an institution which has developed into an outstanding Medical Center for the Handicapped -- starting from a meager clinic, set up with a mere $500 in cash, and staffed by a handful of volunteer women from Dr. Lomax's Church/Guild. His achievements have been phenomenal in regard to his influence in the field of orthopedic practice; also in that of education; but we see his most-unusual humanitarian qualities as perhaps topping both. His prominence in all regards has been noticed all across the Nation; not only in the Southern California Community; and satellite-clinics, starting as Dr. Lomax's first clinic (volunteers and a shoe-string budget) have been inspired in Argentina, and on the U.S. - Mexico border (Calexico - Mexicali). Children from the latter-area are transported by plane -- private Flying Club -- to OrthoMedic Hospital when surgical procedures are required. The basis for care has always been that of an idealist: care for the whole-child or person who is in need of orthopedic care, regardless of race, creed, color or ability to pay for such services. The need is always great, and Dr. Lomax has never ceased giving freely of his time and energies --- early in his career he guided his activities solely in the direction of following his idealistic dreams of serving humanity with his special skills, thus passing up what could have been a very lucrative private practice.
Over quite a period of time, we have been able to build up a file on Dr. Roman which is being held in Washington in the office of one of President Nixon's aides -- but in spite of correspondence from the White House, we are yet uncertain as to whether or not President Nixon has ever been advised of its contents, and of the diversified representation in numerous, forwarded endorsements of our request for his consideration of our candidate. We do know however, that Dr. Roman has been approved for this highest of civic honors, and that his name has been placed on a long list of candidates awaiting selection. Hopefully, the President may soon wish to recognize one or more medical doctors.

With Mrs. Nixon's obvious interest in volunteer programs for the handicapped, I wrote to her under date of December 28th, to inform her of the membership of the non-very-large group of citizens scattered all over the Nation, eager to promote the candidacy of Dr. Roman. The timing of my letter proved to be poor, but I did receive a warm response from Mrs. Joan King, Director of Correspondence for Mrs. Nixon (under date of 1/7/72), stating that she would be happy to tell Mrs. Nixon of our interest, upon her return from Africa. I was further encouraged by her adding: "In the meantime, I am forwarding it (letter) to the official on the President's staff directly involved in matters of this nature." It is our hope naturally, that Mrs. Nixon may wish to place before the President, the qualifications of Dr. Roman, and be the source of assurance that such has been done. If only we may know for certain that we have reached President Nixon personally with this request, we will truly be grateful.

Politics should not enter into the granting of such medals, but as a volunteer who has been working with Victory Funds for the Republican Party, and in an election year in particular, my mind turns to the possibilities for votes from members of the groups I presently represent in this effort for Dr. Roman. In the Los Angeles area, I am fully aware of the large general registration of Democrats. I suspect that our own group consists of more Democrats than Republicans, and I am aware of the fact that some of these Democrats are quite disaccustomed with the present list of Democratic hopefuls in regard to the Presidency. Too such, whom I know well have stated that they would vote for President Nixon if only he would recognize
our candidate... caused, I commented that they were now showing more
good-judgment. They could be serious.

Dr. Lowman has lived most of his years in California, but is a native of the
State of Illinois where he is greatly-respected, and entertained whenever he
visits. The memberships of the many medical and professional groups in which he
holds membership (several Orthopaedic Medical Associations in particular are
backing our request) total many thousands. The Los Angeles County Medical
Association alone, which named Dr. Lowman "Doctor of the Century" during their
Centennial year in 1971, claims 10,000 members. In late-January, the American
Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (selective) convened in Washington, D.C., with
7600 registrants in attendance. These are but two.

Special recognition, in acknowledgement of 50 years of membership, is planned
for Dr. Lowman when he attends the Annual Convention of the American Orthopaedic
Association to be held in Seattle, June 28 to June 29. That group of his peers
long ago added its endorsement of Dr. Lowman’s candidacy for Presidential recogni-
tion. If such is to be forthcoming, it is now our hope that it might be granted
to him at a time close to these dates — just prior to the start of the meetings
were it to be planned for a Washington presentation. Of course, we would love
to have such take place in San Clemente, at an earlier date if possible.

"Would you and Mr. Brown feel that you could mention this matter to either President
Nixon or Mrs. Nixon; possibly both? There is always the chance of a lapse in
communication between such busy people as are in the "White House. Attorney General
John N. Mitchell might be interested also, when he turns to the running of
President Nixon’s reelection campaign. I am serious in my belief that to overlook
Dr. Lowman now, in regard to this honor, might lose some otherwise-forthcoming
Nixon votes. This would appear to be a most-pronounced time to recognize a great
humanitarian; while the thinking of many is in terms of world as well as national
relationships.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Miss] Nova Service

Res. Phone: 677 - 7663