

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT



DR. JASPER FLEMING WILLIAMS

DR. JASPER FLEMING WILLIAMS, 56, an obstetrician-gynecologist of Chicago, Illinois, was chosen President-Elect of the National Medical Association in a spirited election in the House of Delegates at the 79th Annual Convention of the Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 1, 1974. He will be installed as 76th NMA President at Miami, Florida, in August 1975.

Dr. Williams is a hardy product of the Great Central Plains. He has been an enterprising individualist and civil rights activist since his early years. Born on the banks of the Rio Grande at El Paso, Texas, February 8, 1918, the first of three sons, all of whom were to become physicians, of Jasper B. and Clara Belle Williams, he grew up within sight of the low mountains which form the foothills of the southeastern Rockies. Large Indian reservations were not far away and Mexicans were a familiar sight. Thus he learned in childhood about American attitudes toward the original inhabitants and those from across the border, as well as toward citizens of his own ethnic derivation. His father opened a drug store which failed in nearby Las Cruces, New Mexico, and later was dismissed from a teaching job because he advocated integration. He then homesteaded a 600 acre farm.

Young Jasper migrated at first northward into New Mexico where he led his class at the Union High School at Las Cruces, then eastward to Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. He graduated with honors from its School of Business Administration in 1940. He lingered in his native area for a year as voucher clerk at Prairie View University in Houston, Texas, and then crossed the Appalachians to become business manager of Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina. Here he was tapped in 1942 for service in the United States Army in which he spent four years.

Assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for basic training, he became bantamweight boxing champion of his Battalion and semi-finalist in the Regimental Tournament. He states that his "commanding general was so impressed by his willingness to get off the floor that he was promoted to the rank of corporal and ordered transferred to the officer candidate group." He earned his commission as 2nd Lieutenant and saw service in France and Germany in the European Theater of Operations, winning two battle stars there. While in the Army he developed a coordinate grid terrain board which was widely used in the Armed Forces as an artillery training aid. He was a 1st Lieutenant and Battalion

Survey Officer at the time of his retirement from active duty in 1946.

One of his chief service benefits was his charming wife to be, Miss Margaret M. Butler of Missouri, whom he met while she was an Army nurse at Camp Livingston, Louisiana. They were wed shortly before he was sent overseas.

In the year of his separation from the Army, Dr. Williams' youngest brother, Charles, graduated in medicine from Howard University, but Dr. Jasper was then more industrially minded. He returned to his home country and opened a well drilling business at Las Cruces, New Mexico. There he drilled many wells including the deepest in the Mesa region which was 1156 feet deep. He also drilled some of the largest wells in the Mesilla Valley which included five of the 36 inch diameter, drilled for Stahman Farms, one of the largest pecan growers in the world. He became a skilled arc welder and gas burner and was licensed as a drilling and water works contractor. He designed the water system, drilled the well, and installed the pumps for the Bueno Vista suburb of El Paso, Texas. During the completion of one of the wells, he was injured by a pump explosion and while recovering was encouraged by his brothers to return to school for premedical studies as medicine had always been his latent choice for a profession.

Accordingly, he enrolled in the New Mexico College for Agricultural and Mechanical Arts and completed his premedical requirements. This institution had refused him admission because of race after his graduation from high school. He then entered Creighton University Medical School, a Jesuit institution in Omaha, Nebraska, where his middle brother, James Buchanan, was already a junior medical student.

After receiving the M.D. from Creighton in 1953, Dr. Jasper interned at Provident Hospital in Chicago, where he remained for a residency in obstetrics and gynecology, and became a member of the attending staff and later chairman of gynecology. He became a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1961.

In his Provident course he followed in the tradition of his two younger brothers. Dr. Charles Lee served his internship and residency at Provident and remained to become a member of the attending staff and chairman of the Department of Medicine. He was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1956. Dr. James B. interned at Provident and served on its attending staff. He became a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery in 1957.

Dr. James intensified also the Creighton association by returning there for an M.Sc. in surgery in 1954 and a residency which found him chairman of the Division of General Surgery in Creighton Hospitals in 1956. Dr. Jasper has given further depth to the Creighton link in that his son, Dr. Jasper F., Jr. received the M.D. from Creighton in 1974.

Dr. Jasper, Sr. has pursued postgraduate study at the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons and the American Col-

lege of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a member of the American Geriatric Society, the AMA and other professional organizations. He was president of the Cook County Physicians Association for two years, 1960 and 61, and served on the Mayor's Committee for School Board Appointees for the City of Chicago.

Dr. Jasper Williams has always been self-reliant and active on many fronts. At Tuskegee he earned his room and board as assistant to the cashier and chauffeur for the treasurer of the institution. He was president of several campus organizations and active in debating and intramural sports, so that he was listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities," in 1940.

Dr. Williams' civil rights activities might be said to have begun while he was at Tuskegee. There with a close friend, now Attorney T. Rupert Broady of New York, he led a boycott which resulted in integration of employees of the Tuskegee theater.

After his return from the Army, to Las Cruces, New Mexico, he led the action which resulted in the integration of the public schools. While at Creighton, Dr. Williams' wife pursued further study and received the B.S. in nursing from Creighton University and a certificate in anesthesia from St. Joseph's Hospital. Their first two children, Jasper Jr. and Carolyn Joyce were enrolled in St. John's School while their father attempted to integrate Duchesne and other Catholic schools in Omaha. Subsequently these schools were opened.

In 1957 Dr. Williams was a vocal and valued participant in the first Imhotep National Conference on Hospital Integration, held in Washington, D.C. His experience as an activist has made him skilled in confrontation techniques, an excellent preparation for the statesmanship which his new role as NMA president will require.

On September 15, 1960, the three Williams brothers and their mother, Mrs. Clara Belle Williams, opened the Williams Clinic in Chicago located at Marquette Road and King Drive. Mrs. Williams now 89 years of age, still reports to work at the Clinic every morning at 8:30 A.M. She is affectionately known as "Grandma" and must by any standard be accounted one of the remarkable women of our time. How many mothers are there who in such fullness of years are able to work daily with three sons each of whom has become Board Certified in his respective field. Certainly she is unique with respect to families of the NMA. Already her greatness stands in her posterity.

In 1961 Dr. Jasper, representing all three brothers,



L. to r. Dr. Jasper F. Williams, Dr. James B. Williams, Dr. Charles L. Williams and their mother Mrs. Clara B. Williams, at the opening of the Williams Clinic in September 1960.



The Williams family. L. to r., Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Williams, Mrs. Clara B. Williams, Mrs. James B. Williams and Dr. Jasper F. Williams.

returned with his mother to the new Mexico College for A and M Arts, where the University which had once denied admission honored the brothers as the "Outstanding Alumni for 1961." At the same time one of the campus streets was named "Williams Street" in honor of Mrs. Clara Belle Williams.

Mrs. Williams is a retired teacher who taught 13 years at Prairie View College, Texas and 27 years in the schools of Las Cruces, New Mexico. In March 1969, she was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Southwest District of the New Mexico Education Association.

Dr. Williams has published medical papers in Obstetrics & Gynecology, the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and the Quarterly Review of Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology and presented papers at many medical meetings. He has also made several medical films and numerous radio and television appearances and served as guest lecturer in many localities.

Dr. Williams is a certified pilot of single and multi-engine airplanes. With a few friends he organized the Black Aviation Operation at Gary Municipal Airport. He is a member of the International Flying Bankers Association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Flying Physicians Association and Negro Airmen International. He is also an aviation medical examiner and accident investigator for the FAA.

He is presently chairman of the Board of the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation which operates apartments in Florida, Maryland and Ohio valued at about \$10 million. He is also a member of the Board of

Interaction, Inc., which operates apartments in Chicago worth about \$6 million. He was also an organizer and is now a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Seaway National Bank.

Dr. Williams is a member of Grant Memorial AME Church which he attends every first Sunday and on the other three Sundays of the month he attends with his family the St. Thomas Catholic Church.

He is a member of the Phi Delta Pi medical fraternity to which he was elected as a student at Creighton. He belongs also to the Urban League, the NAACP and the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Committee on Health and Industry of the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry. He is a past president of the Chicago Chapter of Creighton Alumni, a past chairman of the Ethical Relations Committee of the Chicago Medical Society and has been an associate editor of "Hospital Staff," a publication of the American Hospital Association.

His present hospital staff affiliations include Provident, St. Bernard, Tabernacle, and Illinois Masonic. He has served in the Fantus Clinic of Bernard Hospital and is a past chief of staff of St. Bernard Hospital. Dr. Williams is listed in Who's Who in the Midwest for 1974-75.

Twice a grandfather by his daughter, Mrs. William Winston, Dr. Williams younger son Theodore is a freshman at LaSalle University.

We wish him a running start for his NMA term in 1975.

W. MONTAGUE COBB, M.D.