THE NAVAL HOSPITAL

(The Veterans Administration Hospital)

Dr. E. W. Bertner, who became one of the prime movers in development of the Texas Medical Center, informed the Executive Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 14, 1942, that the U. S. Navy was seeking the site for a hospital in the Southwest, and that there was the possibility that Houston might be selected.

His report set in motion another chain of events which culminated, after a highly frustrating experience for the Chamber of Commerce, in the addition of another magnificent hospital for the community on a site near the proposed medical center.

The Navy opened the hospital in 1946 and transferred it in 1948 to the Veterans Administration, which continues to operate it today as an important affiliate of the Texas Medical Center.

At the time Dr. Bertner met with the Executive Committee, announcements had been made that the state cancer hospital would be located in "the medical center" to be developed in Houston by the Anderson Foundation and that the University of Texas, with the Legis-

lature concurring, would take over and operate the then unaffiliated

Texas Dental College of Houston. Thus, the prospect that another

hospital might be added to the list of acquisitions was indeed of in
terest to the Chamber of Commerce and, subsequently to the Anderson

Foundation.

W. N. Blanton, the dynamic Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, contacted the Hon. Jesse H. Jones, the Houston financier who built much of the city's downtown skyline and who, after distinguished service as administrator of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, during the depression years, was serving as President Roosevelt's Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Jones was asked to do what he could to encourage interest in Houston for the Naval Hospital. Meanwhile, an extensive brief was sent to the Navy Department in behalf of a Houston location for the hospital.

Upon his return from a trip to Washington, Mr. Blanton reported to the Executive Committee on July 13, 1943, that he had talked to Mr. Jones again about the Naval Hospital. He said Mr. Jones later had a conference with Admiral Ross McIntire at the White House, after which Mr. Jones suggested a letter be addressed to the Admiral explaining in detail the Medical Center, the Anderson Foundation and the various projects that were proposed for the Center. Mr. Blanton said he had checked the Naval Hospital "from three other sources" and felt definitely that Houston had an excellent chance of getting it.

The letter Mr. Jones suggested was written prior to the Executive Committee's meeting, so that upon reading it at the meeting July 13, it was unanimously approved. This letter, offering a site cost-free to the

Government, is reproduced here in full because of its bearing on later developments:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOUSTON, TEXAS July 10, 1943

Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire The White House Washington, D. C.

My dear Admiral McIntire:

The Naval Hospital which is under consideration for location in Houston, Texas, is a matter of prime interest to the Houston Chamber of Commerce. We believe that Houston offers very real advantages for the location of this hospital, not only from the standpoint of the service which it will render to the Navy, but also as a part of the great Medical Center which is being developed in this city. This Medical Center has been established by the M. D. Anderson Foundation which administers a trust fund of approximately \$25,000,000 established by the late M. D. Anderson. The trustees are Colonel W. B. Bates, John H. Freeman and Horace Wilkins, all of Houston.

The Foundation is acquiring from the City of Houston a tract of 134 acres adjoining Hermann Hospital in the southern part of Houston. This is a beautiful tract of land which now is a part of the city park system. The Medical Center will consist of the Hermann Hospital, which now is in operation; the M. D. Anderson Hospital for cancer research, which now is operating in quarters in Houston; the University of Texas School of Dentistry; the Institute of Geographic Medicine of the University of Texas for post-graduate work, and the Baylor University College of Medicine and Dentistry, which two have been located in Dallas and are to be established in Houston. The Baylor University College of Medicine is opening next week in Houston in a downtown location where it will continue for the duration of the war, after which it will move to a site in the Medical Center. The Baylor University School of Dentistry now is located in Dallas, Texas, where it is expected to remain until the end of the war, after which it will be moved to Houston to become a part of the Medical Center.

The M. D. Anderson Foundation is working in close cooperation with the University of Texas and Baylor University for the development of under-graduate teaching facilities in medicine and a program of post-graduate teaching and research work in medical education under the direction of the University of Texas. Plans also are under way for the establishment of other units in the Medical Center. These include immediate consideration of the Tuberculosis Hospital and Research Institution. The University of Texas also proposes to establish a school for the study of geographic medicine.

You may be assured that the City of Houston and the Houston Chamber of Commerce will lend all possible cooperation and assistance in the establishment of the Naval Hospital in Houston. A suitable site will be furnished without cost to the government. If it should be decided to locate the Naval Hospital as a part of or in conjunction with the Medical Center, a site will be furnished. If it is decided to locate the Hospital elsewhere, in or near Houston, the site will be provided without cost.

We have been assured by the trustees of the Anderson Foundation that they will cooperate in every possible way for the establishment of a Naval Hospital in Houston and that the facilities of the Medical Center will be offered freely to the Naval Hospital. The University of Texas and the Baylor University College of Medicine have assured us likewise that they will cooperate completely with the Naval authorities. The Mayor and the Council of the City of Houston have assured us that they will lend all possible assistance. The Houston Chamber of Commerce will leave nothing undone to assist in the establishment of the Naval Hospital in Houston and to contribute to its successful operation.

These assurances are given you with the thought that Naval authorities would like to have a definite statement of the obligations we are willing to assume and the cooperation which we are prepared to give if the Naval Hospital is located in Houston.

If additional information is desired, or if we may extend further assistance, please command us.

Sincerely,

(s) A. D. Simpson
President

Admiral McIntire, under date of Sept. 7, 1943, acknowledged receipt of the Chamber of Commerce letter. Over the next several months the Navy sent its representatives to inspect proposed sites in Houston, but refrained from making contact with the Chamber of Commerce. Thus it came as a shock, on June 5, 1944, eleven months after President Simpson wrote his letter, when the Navy informed the Chamber of Commerce it had selected the site at Almeda road and Marlboro drive (later renamed Holcombe boulevard) and was prepared to receive title to it for the hospital.

In the meantime the Hermann Estate, which owned the property, had sold off a 150x150-foot site for a filling station and had negotiated a contract with a real estate developer for sale of the remainder of the property. The Executive Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce understandably was upset, to put it mildly, by the turn of events over which it had no control or forewarning.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of June 7, and June 9, 1944, detailed the embarrassing situation in which the Chamber of Commerce found itself:

MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HOUSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE June 7th, 1944

Present: H. O. Clarke, presiding; L. S. Adams, Jas. A. Baker, Jr., W. B. Bates, W. N. Blanton, E. A. Blackburn, George Sawtelle and John R. Suman.

Guests: James Anderson and W. P. Hobby.

NAVAL HOSPITAL:

Mr. Blanton reviewed the history of negotiations during the past two years for the establishment of the Naval hospital at Houston. Originally, an elaborate brief was prepared by the Chamber with suggestion of several locations; principally water front or the rural interior. A location near La Porte, at that time, was emphasized. Subsequent developments narrowed the consideration of sites to the immediate Houston area, with three sites considered. These were Glenbrook Country Club; Memorial Park and Hermann Estate tract on Marlborough Drive.

While Mr. Blanton was in Washington in July of last year he discussed the Navy Hospital with Mr. Jones with the result that President Simpson prepared a letter to Rear-Admiral Ross T. McIntire, July 10, 1943, which offered to furnish a site free of cost to the government for the hospital. This letter was submitted to the Executive Committee and approved. A reply acknowledging receipt of this letter was received from Admiral McIntire dated September 7th, 1943.

In September, 1943, Admiral Foote became interested in the location of the Navy Hospital in Houston and was instrumental in conducting Rear Admiral Sheldon on an inspection trip of sites. Subsequently, a Navy Engineering group headed by Capt. Gill, with eight other naval officers, visited numerous sites and obtained data relative to them. Commander Lawson of the Navy inspected sites. (At this point Mr. Anderson left the meeting for another appointment). On one accasion Col. Bates conducted Navy officers on an inspection trip to the various sites. They did not wish the Chamber to be informed about their visit.

The Chamber of Commerce had no expression from the Navy Department relative to interest in or selection of any site until June 5, 1944, when Mr. Blanton received a long distance call from Lt. Comdr. A. J. Murphy in Washington

in which it was stated that the Navy now was prepared to receive the site for the hospital and to proceed with architectural planning. The site selected by the Navy was on the property of Hermann Estate, being approximately 135 acres.

Mr. Blanton had several telephone conversations with Mr. W. C. Costello, Mr. Jones' executive assistant, in Washington and with Commander Murphy to ascertain the exact status of the situation. He was advised that Commander Lawson was being sent to Houston by Admiral Matthews to go into the whole situation.

The Executive Committee discussed President Simpson's letter of July 10 and all agreed that a definite offer had been made although there had been no thought that the location chosen would involve the heavy cost of the large Herman Estate tract. When the Navy first considered the Hermann Estate location the land was valued at \$1750 per acre. The property has since increased approximately 100 dollars per acre.

In the meantime, in the absence of any action by the Navy, the Hermann Estate has sold a corner location to the Humble Oil & Refining Company for filling station purposes. Early in May the Hermann Estate entered into a contract to sell the remainder of the tract of land to a real estate developer, received an escrow payment and completion of this contract of sale only awaits approval of title.

At this point Major Laird (Ghamber of Commerce staff member) and Commander Lawson met with the Executive Committee.

Mr. Clarke explained the status of the situation to Commander Lawson, stating that the Executive Committee found itself embarrassed by these circumstances. It is anxious to do everything possible to furnish an acceptable site to the Navy and he inquired if the Navy would consider other sites. He mentioned the sites previously under consideration and another tract of Hermann Estate land beyond that selected as the site. A private airport is located on this land.

Commander Lawson stated that acceptance by the Navy of a tract different than the one now selected would make it necessary to go through the whole process of site selection again; also, it would require the approval of the numerous navy officials and related agencies who are concerned with the hospital. He made it clear that a change in sites would involve great difficulties.

Mr. Clarke assured Commander Lawson that the Chamber of Commerce has no desire to recede from its position as set forth in the letter of President Simpson and that the Chamber would make every effort to carry out its commitment. However, in view of developments since the original offer and the difficulties encountered he requested Commander Lawson to obtain information about the position of the Navy with regard to consideration of other sites. Mr. Clarke also asked information about the Navy's attitude on condemnation, if necessary to obtain title to the tract. Since making the site offer to the Navy the Chamber has engaged itself in raising \$500,000 for the Baylor University College of Medicine.

Commander Lawson advised that efforts be made first to clear up availability of the selected site before initiating consideration of other locations. Commander Lawson stated that the hospital would be a permanent institution providing 500 beds to which would be added temporary facilities affording 500 more beds. It will be operated by the Navy during the war and thereafter by the Veterans Administration. In addition to the hospital structures, this will be a general hospital, set up with auxiliary buildings to house physicians, nurses, steam plant, etc. He estimated 18 to 20 buildings initially will be constructed. Commander Lawson assured the Committee that he would remain in Houston a reasonable time to render all possible assistance in giving or obtaining required information. Commander Lawson and Major Laird then withdrew.

The Executive Committee proceeded with a further consideration of ways and means of clearing up questions about the site.

Mr. Baker stated that if the Navy came to the Executive Committee today with its hospital proposal the Committee would take the same action as formerly. The Committee members expressed agreement with this statement.

To learn the exact status of the Hermann Estate property Mr. Clarke appointed Mr. Sawtelle, Mr. Adams and Mr. Blanton to confer with the Trustees of Hermann Estate and to report back to the Committee information about the matter.

Mr. Adams offered the suggestion that the real estate developer who is reported to have contracted for the purchase of this site might be interested in relinquishing it in favor of the adjacent Hermann Estate tract on which to place his development. He mentioned the possibility that the location of the hospital on this site would greatly enhance the value of the adjacent Hermann Estate tract for residential development purposes.

BAYLOR FUND PROGRESS:

Receipts totaling \$491,050 in the Baylor University College of Medicine Fund were reported, leaving a balance of \$8,950 to be raised.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:10 P.M.

The Committee adjourned, subject to call to meet again to receive the report of the Special committee.

(s) (s)
H. O. Clarke, Vice President C. J. Crampton, Recorder

SPECIAL MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HOUSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Held in the Board Room at 9:30 A.M.
Friday, June 9, 1944

Present: H. O. Clarke, presiding; Jas. A. Baker, Jr. E. A. Blackburn, W. N. Blanton, Col. W. B. Bates, George Sawtelle and John R. Suman.

Guests: Rear Admiral Norman M. Smith and Lt. Comdr. J. B. Lawson.

NAVAL HOSPITAL:

Mr. Blanton presented Admiral Smith and Comdr. Lawson. Admiral Smith stated that if the Navy may have a letter from the Chamber of Commerce that it will stand the cost of the site the Navy then, if necessary, will proceed with condemnation.

Mr. Blanton explained that the Hermann Estate has sold the site selected by the Navy to a real estate developer for \$1850 per acre with extended time for payment beyond the original cash payment. Mr. Collier, Business Manager of the Hermann Estate, had written a letter to the Navy asking if the Navy wished to acquire this site, since the Hermann Estate required money and had attractive offers for the purchase of this land. The Navy was unable to give any such

assurance and Hermann Estate entered into a contract to sell the land to D. H. <u>Canterbury</u>, through a broker, the Herman Estate to pay the brokerage. Mr. Canterbury deposited \$10,000 in escrow, title to be accepted by the end of June.

Mr. Sawtelle expressed regret that the Navy had shown a lack of consideration for the Chamber of Commerce which had undertaken to furnish a site without cost to the government. The Navy conducted all of its investigations of locations and other contacts to obtain information without consulting with the Chamber of Commerce or acquainting the Chamber with its plans.

Admiral Smith replied that such matters in the Navy are handled by several bureaus and that each works largely independent in handling its particular jurisdiction. No one in the Navy, under the circumstances, was authorized to make any commitment.

Admiral Smith had no official information relative to the selection of a site and his only contact with the matter had been inquiries from those who sought to contract with the Navy for various requirements in connection with the construction, etc. of the hospital. Admiral Matthews asked him to attend this meeting.

Mr. Clarke explained the embarrassing position of the Chamber, stating that land is available elsewhere in Harris County, near Houston, for around \$200 per acre. Such land would afford City utilities services. Admiral Smith stated that the selection of the Hermann site had involved the consideration of the availability of city conveniences, utility service and proximity to the Medical Center.

Mr. Clarke asked if the Navy would aid in purchasing the site.

Admiral Smith replied that the Navy had been offered many locations in numerous communities in Texas for the establishment of the hospital, site furnished free of cost to the government.

Mr. Sawtelle inquired if Col. Bates felt the Anderson Foundation would assist in meeting the cost of the site for the hospital near the Medical Center.

Col. Bates replied that he had been called into the Navy hospital matter last fall by Commander Bill Kirkland, (W. A. Kirkland of the First National Bank of Houston who was in naval service) who had asked him to meet with and conduct a navy party on an inspection tour of sites. This inspection party was equipped only with a railroad map of

the area, had no Chamber of Commerce map, or information furnished by the Chamber of Commerce. They inspected several sites including that in the Hermann Estate and their interest apparently narrowed to this particular tract.

Mr. Blanton said that Admiral Foote at this time ascertained that the Hermann Estate held this land at \$1750 per acre.

Mr. Clarke inquired of Admiral Smith how long the Chamber of Commerce would be allowed to arrive at a decision with regard to the handling of this matter. Admiral Smith replied, 48 hours and that Lt.-Cmdr. Lawson would hold himself in readiness for further contacts.

At this point Admiral Smith and Commander Lawson withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. Suman raised the question if the Chamber of Commerce still wants the hospital. All agreed that it is desirable.

Mr. Clarke commented that the Chamber of Commerce has been left out on a limb in this matter, but still is interested in the hospital. It is purely a matter of finances.

Mr. Baker read portions of President Simpson's letter of July 10th; also, a similar letter from Mayor Massey to the Navy. All members of the committee agreed that the Chamber of Commerce is obligated.

Mr. Clarke asked Colonel Bates if the M. D. Anderson Foundation would assist in financing the site.

Col. Bates carefully refrained from making any commitment, replying that the Board of Trustees would take the matter under consideration, if it were presented, whereupon Mr. Clarke sugtested that an appointment be made with the Board of Trustees of the M. D. Anderson Foundation for a committee to present this matter at 4:30 P.M. today. He appointed Messrs. Sawtelle, Adams and Suman to meet with the Trustees at 4:30 in Colonel Bates' office. Colonel Bates agreed to arrange for the conference.

ADJOURNED: 10:40 A.M.

		(s)		•			(s)	
H.	0.	Clarke,	Vice	President	c.	J.	Crampton,	Recorder

The meeting of the special committee with the Anderson Foundation trustees late that Friday afternoon produced an agreement that the Foundation would contribute \$100,000 toward the total purchase price of \$221,000 for the property. This action apparently satisfied the 48-hour deadline, to expire on Monday, as imposed by Admiral Smith at the Executive Committee meeting earlier Friday, since no mention of it was made in subsequent meetings.

On the following Monday and Tuesday the Humble Oil & Refining Company and Mr. Canterbury, upon being advised that the Navy had selected the site for the hospital, relinquished their rights to the property, and the Hermann Estate agreed to sell the 118-acre tract for the hospital at \$1750 per acre---or \$100 less per acre than it had agreed to sell to Mr. Canterbury. Since the Humble Company had already paid \$15,000 for its property, the Chamber of Commerce agreed to reimburse it. Thus, \$221,500 would be required to pay for the property.

The urgency of raising the fund was complicated by the fact that the \$500,000 fund-raising drive for Baylor University College of Medicine was just drawing to a close. In fact, President A. D. Simpson, who had been out of the city when the Naval Hospital matter erupted, was able to report at the Board of Directors meeting June 13, prior to further discussion of the hospital matter, that the Baylor drive had gone over the top, with \$503,800 in subscriptions and cash.

While the Baylor report was good news, of course, nonetheless the prospect of immediately conducting another fund drive, even for the laudable purpose of providing a site for a hospital to treat wounded war veterans, was viewed with some trepidation by some directors. However, all agreed that the chore must be undertaken. Gus Wortham,

president of the American General Insurance Company, set the tone of the meeting when he declared that he had "no misgivings about our ability to raise the fund for the site." He said that if the Navy offered the same proposal today it would be accepted without question. Further, he emphasized "the value of the emergency nature of this occasion to raise funds quickly."

This meeting of the Board of Directors produced two resolutions: (1) That the Chamber of Commerce accept the responsibility for providing the site for the Naval Hospital and authorize the officers and Executive Committee to act; and, (2) that the President call a meeting of business and industrial executives at the Chamber of Commerce for the following morning, June 14, to start the fund drive.

The special meeting on June 14 voiced no misgivings about raising the required fund. Rather, those present pledged funds to the drive, volunteered to contact others in the community, and agreed to the use of their names in a letter to be sent to a large list of prospects. The fact that Houston had been selected for the hospital site, in competition with offers from some 90 other communities, was referred to as a challenge for the community to close ranks and respond in a typical Houston manner.

The enthusiasm generated at the special meeting was carried into the fund drive with such success that on July 18, just four days over one month from the start of the drive, Mr. Blanton was able to report to the Executive Committee that \$122,991 had been collected. This amount, with the \$100,000 contributed by the Anderson Foundation, was sufficient to pay for the hospital site.

On that same date Mr. Blanton read to the Executive Committee a letter from Judge E. E. Townes, chairman of the Houston Committee of the Baylor University trustees, acknowledging receipt of \$503,800 in cash and subscriptions for the Baylor University College of Medicine, fully satisfying the oblication which the Chamber of Commerce had assumed in support of the college's move to Houston.

Thus ended two fund drives which made significant contributions to the development of the Texas Medical Center. Counting the \$100,000 Anderson Foundation contribution, a total of \$726,791 had been raised in the two campaigns over a period of eight months. The community had indeed responded to the challenges.

But another fund drive, this time to raise not less than \$750,000 for University of Texas facilities in the Medical Center, was just around the corner for the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

This campaign, which raised just under \$1 million, and the problems in connection with gaining legislative appropriations for construction of facilities and for operating funds, are detailed in another section of this report.

Deeds to the Naval Hospital site were presented in ceremonies Aug. 14, 1944, as described in the following item from the September, 1944, issue of Magazine HOUSTON:

DEEDS TO HOSPITAL SITE GIVEN ADMIRAL N. M. SMITH

In the presence of Col. W. B. Bates, Chairman of the board of the M. D. Anderson Foundation, and Lieut. Comdr. Louis F. Southerland, officer in charge of construction of the \$6,000,000 naval hospital to be erected here, deeds to the site were presented by A. D. Simpson, president of the Chamber of Commerce, to Rear Adm. Norman M. Smith on August 14.

Mr. Simpson, in attributing the successful purchase of the 118-acre tract of land to the generosity of Houston's citizens, said:

"The manner in which business and industrial leaders have aided in making the Baylor medical college and navy hospital funds successful is very satisfying to the entire community. The public spirit shown by the work done in the campaigns places Houston at the top of the nation's cities, and I know I voice the sentiment of not only the Chamber of Commerce but of the city as a whole when I thank and commend the generous and efficient work done by the men and women who aided these two worthwhile undertakings."

Houston may some day compare to Vienna, Baltimore and Rochester in the medical world, he predicted, basing his statement on the rapid strides attained in the city during the past year. These accomplishments point toward the development of not only better medical treatment, but improved and advanced medical research and education.

Climatical conditions were taken into consideration by the Navy in choosing the location, and Houston is strategically placed for the study of geographical diseases.

"When the war is over and the millions of men overseas return to their former homes, many of them undoubtedly will bring back with them diseases now uncommon to us,
Mr. Simpson stated. "A study of these various ailments
can be made in Houston after the war, thanks to the planned
construction here of the large navy hospital and the Medical Center."

Thirty-five structures are scheduled to be constructed on the site and the hospital is to be a part of the Texas Medical Center.

The Navy lost no time in starting work on the hospital. It had its engineers on the site immediately after the Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors accepted responsibility for providing the site to the Government. Construction was well under way, with three buildings nearing completion, and the foundation and basement work for the seven-story main building proceeding, when the cornerstone was laid on March 10, 1945.

Original estimates were that the hospital would cost about \$6 million, but by the time it was formally opened in colorful ceremonies on Sept. 4, 1946, the costs were estimated at \$11 million. The Magazine HOUSTON's account of the opening ceremonies is reproduced in full here to emphasize the importance attached to this hospital not only in serving the Government's needs but also the contribution it would make to the development of the Texas Medical Center.

CITY'S \$11,000,000 NAVAL HOSPITAL FORMALLY OPENED

NAVY LEAGUE HONORS HIGH NAVY OFFICIALS WITH COLORFUL BANQUET

The Houston Naval Hospital was activated on September 4, in a colorful commissioning ceremony attended by Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntire, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and numerous other Navy personnel and prominent Houston businessmen.

The \$11,000,000 hospital, comprising thirty-seven buildings, was dedicated as the Navy's contribution to post-war medical research.

Admiral McIntire, one of five speakers at the commissioning, said that the completion of the hospital was symbolic of the Navy's intention to carry on into the post-war years the medical program that was given such impetus by the war. "This magnificent hospital will stand forth as the Navy's contribution in bringing forth new and better methods of caring for the sick and injured. The hospital corps did a wonderful job of saving lives during the war, and there is no good excuse for it to slacken in its efforts in peacetime," he stated.

The hospital will become a research center for plastic surgery and the treatment of tropical diseases, and the Navy plans to bring in patients by air from all parts of the country and from overseas installations.

The commissioning of the hospital was carried out by Rear Adm. A. S. (Tip) Merrill, commandant of the Eighth Naval District at New Orleans, who turned over its command to Capt. Clyde W. Brunson. Captain Brunson accepted the structure, saying "on this occasion we will do well to recall the sacrifices that the veterans have made for us." During the commissioning, the flag was hoisted while the national anthem was played by the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station band.

Captain Brunson said that only the landscaping and naming of the streets and terraces remain to be done. The streets will be named for World War II hospital corps personnel who lost their lives.

Rear Adm. J. J. Manning, chief of the Navy's bureau of yards and docks, said the building of the hospital was a tribute to the faith Houstonians have in their city.

"There is no finer hospital in the world today," Admiral Manning said, "and it has been a privilege for me to have headed the bureau during the hospital's construction. It was built during a period of labor trouble and material shortages and everyone who had a hand in its planning and construction deserves the Navy's 'well done'."

Congressman Albert Thomas, who played a major role in securing the Naval Hospital for Houston, said that it stood as a living symbol of all that is good in man. He spoke briefly on the international situation.

"We are having trouble with one of our former allies, but I hope common sense will temper her judgment. Let's keep the greatest Navy in the world, a powerful Army and Air Force, and work day and night for peace."

The hospital is situated on a one hundred and eighteen acre site at Marlborough and Almeda on property paid for by contributions of three hundred and fifty-three citizens, totaling \$221,600. The

Houston Chamber of Commerce conducted the campaign to raise the funds and bring the hospital here.

Capt. H. L. D. Kirkham, of Houston, one of the Navy's foremost plastic surgeons, served as master of ceremonies at the commissioning. He will be in charge of the hospital's plastic surgery. The invocation was given by Chaplain W. F. Cuthriell of the Eighth Naval District; and Comdr. Eric H. Arendt, pronounced the benediction.

The Houston Council, Navy League of the United States, sponsored a banquet at the Rice Hotel the evening of the 4th for the Navy visitors, which was attended by approximately four hundred prominent Houstonians.

Dr. E. W. Bertner, president of the board of trustees of the Texas Medical Center, presided and speeches were made by Admiral McIntire, former Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, Representative Albert Thomas, Col. W. B. Bates, chairman of the board of the M. D. Anderson Foundation, and Captain Brunson.

Mr. Jones, who returned to Houston from Washington, D. C. for the hospital activation ceremonies, introduced Admiral McIntire and called him "one of the greatest medical men in this country."

"To you and to the world he's Vice Admiral McIntire. To me he's a great personal friend, Doctor McIntire," Mr. Jones said.

He recalled the admiral's relationship with the late President Roosevelt as his personal physician from 1933 to his death. "When the history of these terrible years beginning before the war and leading up to the war, has been written, it won't be complete without Ross McIntire because I know that he---more than any other man---knew President Roosevelt and his problems." Mr. Jones said.

He proclaimed Wednesday, September 4, "one of the important days in the life and development of Houston."

In his address, Admiral McIntire said: "I think it's a crying shame that we can look over our nation and find health situations not even tolerated on tropical islands where our fighting men went ashore during the war. I want to see this country make use

of the things we learned from our experiences during the war. I think this one responsibility of government is to make available to its citizens the lessons the armed forces learned."

He stated that many things have been learned about disease control and said the Navy, because it must be able to operate in every part of the world, must "know everything we can in the medical field throughout the world.

"And the Navy intends to extend its operations in medical research work in Oriental diseases being carried on in Cairo and the tropical disease study being made at Guam as examples of the extension of operations."

The recreational facilities provided by Houston organizations and the many features of the Navy Hospital were emphasized by Captain Brunson in his speech.

The banquet brought to a close the one-day dedication ceremonies of Houston's Naval Hospital and "one of the important days in the life and development of Houston."