Perhaps Dr. Lee would like to comment on that.

Dr. LEE. I would like to add one other thing that is not an obvious benefit. When you have physicians in a group there is a constant stimulation for them to keep up professionally. They are given time off to go to meetings and they often have opportunities to take sabbaticals for professional study. So physicians in a group over an extended period of time tend to keep up professionally more than physicians in solo practice.

You also have the constant association of other professionals, your peers, you might say, looking over your shoulder. And that improves the quality of care. This is already done in most hospitals. But in outpatient care and in home care, this is not the case, except in groups.

This is something you can't put your finger on, you can't say that it has a certain specific benefit. But I think there is no question that over time this can accrue very definitely to the benefit of the individual patient who goes to the group physician.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Thank you both.

Mr. BARRETT. We are now going to give Mr. Brownstein an opportunity to make his statement.

And then after you have made your statement, Mr. Brownstein, I am sure the members would like to ask you some questions.

But if Mr. Cohen would remain, it may be helpful to Mr. Brownstein and to the committee.

Mr. Brownstein, would you proceed?

STATEMENT OF HON. PHILIP N. BROWNSTEIN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MORTGAGE CREDIT AND COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BROWNSTEIN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am pleased to appear before you again to discuss FHA's participation in the administration of H.R. 9256, introduced by Congressman Patman. Under Secretary Wilbur Cohen has discussed the need for a program to facilitate the financing of facilities for the group practice of medicine and dentistry. I will, therefore, confine myself to how we would propose to process applications for mortgage insurance under the bill, if it is passed.

On the very important aspects of the proposed legislation which require specialized knowledge in the medical or dental fields, we would rely heavily on the professional advice and technical assistance of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. As Under Secretary Cohen has told you, we have already had a number of discussions with HEW staff on the provisions of H.R. 9256. These conversations have been very constructive and harmonious. I am sure that we can develop a proper blending of the skills of HEW and FHA needed to administer the chairman's bill in a responsible manner.

In drafting regulations and procedures, and in the establishment of minimum standards for construction and equipment, HEW has agreed to provide us with assistance relating to the medical and health aspects. HEW will also provide consultation to communities and groups proposing to establish group practice. HEW will similarly assist us in the processing of applications for mortgage insurance. In the review of applications, they have agreed to advise on whether the proposed