

be those who desire to foster the prepaid medical plan, is that about the size of it?

Dr. RINGER. We are afraid there is a possibility that with this type bill, organizations might control the care that a patient receives medically and it might be detrimental to that patient.

Mr. HARVEY. In other words, what you are saying is, it would not be the same as if the doctors themselves were asserting that control and dictating how that patient would be taken care of?

Dr. RINGER. That is right.

Mr. HARVEY. Your organization would foster the group prepayment payment plan for the ones dictating it? That is why you are averse to this particular program?

Dr. RINGER. That is exactly right.

Mr. HARVEY. Let me ask you this other question. Do you think in your testimony that there should be some sort of limit on the amount of support that would be available to any one group if such a bill as this is enacted?

Dr. RINGER. I certainly think that would be a good precautionary move. I would agree with that.

Mr. HARVEY. Let me ask you further, in your understanding, the provisions of this bill would include financing, not only for the building itself, but would include financing for all the equipment that goes into the building?

Dr. RINGER. That is right.

Mr. HARVEY. Now, this equipment could be very expensive, is that correct?

Dr. RINGER. Yes; it could be so expensive, and one could just keep cascading it to a point where it wouldn't even be a profitable situation. In other words, suppose you went into an area where there wasn't enough demand for a heart-lung machine. You could even buy one of those and set it up, and you could spend tremendous sums of money without any need for it.

Mr. HARVEY. Could you give us any idea, for example, just in round numbers or figures, what we are talking about to equip, say a four-doctor clinic, just as an example?

Dr. RINGER. May I use my own personal reference?

Mr. HARVEY. Yes.

Dr. RINGER. I operate a five-group clinic.

Mr. HARVEY. Five men, you mean?

Dr. RINGER. Yes; a five-man clinic in the community of Hallettsville, which has a population of 3,000 people. The total cost of my clinic was around \$85,000, including the building and the equipment.

Mr. HARVEY. This was purchased when, Doctor?

Dr. RINGER. I have been in practice a long time. It is over the years. We have had to discard some of the equipment and buy new equipment, but it is set up on an \$85,000 inventory.

Mr. HARVEY. The \$85,000 that you are referring to would be the cost to a group of doctors performing those same services, purchasing the same equipment today?

Dr. RINGER. I think it could easily be replaced today for a hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. HARVEY. \$100,000?

Dr. RINGER. Yes.