

become involved in education, the criteria is professional competence and that this continues to be a major criteria.

I think Members of Congress and committees such as this should have a very deep interest in the professional competence of those who are appointed to the various positions in the U.S. Office hierarchy. I trust, ladies and gentlemen, that you and your colleagues will exert yourselves to see that professional decisions of grave importance to millions of people in the United States, representing the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars of public funds, are not made by individuals whose professional competence might at least be questioned.

Mr. GIBBONS. I think that is something that, of course, we will all strive to do. I have had some question, myself, about the operation of some of these review panels, trying to determine better ways that decisions could be made, as to who will conduct this program or that program. Do you have any suggestions as to what we could do rather than use review panels?

Dr. ARBUCKLE. I think again that the people who know most should be the ones, obviously, who make the decisions.

Mr. GIBBONS. How are you going to pick those people, though?

Dr. ARBUCKLE. Again I would think the best you can do is to go to those organizations which have the most in the way of know-how as what is happening and who is involved in it. I would assume, for example, if you have any Federal money for cancer research you would probably go to the American Medical Association and related professional bodies and say, "Hey, this is the direction we think it makes sense to go. What do you think? Do you have some people who have really been involved in this? Have they gotten some new stuff?" And so on. I think this is the general point.

Mr. GIBBONS. Are you saying that the professional association, then, should have a greater voice in the selection of people who fill these slots that we are talking about?

Dr. ARBUCKLE. That is right.

Mr. GIBBONS. I frankly don't know what voice they now have so I can't agree or disagree with you. I would imagine that they do have some influence. I know most of them are very vigorous. It is a very difficult task. I have seen these piles and piles of material that come in in response to requests for institutes and programs. I don't see how any group of human beings could ever read and digest all of it.

Dr. ARBUCKLE. Just a little pardon, however, Mr. Gibbons. If you look at that manual for this year, for example, I don't think this is really showing geographic prejudice when you look at a map of the United States and you see one dot which says University of Pittsburgh, that is the only one in the North Atlantic area. If you look at California, with due respect to Mr. Regan and others, you find three dots in the State of California, two dots in Indiana, you find one in a number of Southeastern States. It would seem that, in terms of professional competence, it is a little bit dislocated.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you very much.

Dr. ARBUCKLE. Thank you, I appreciate being here.

Mr. GIBBONS. Dr. John Herzog is next.