

comprehensive care is provided—what we are concerned about is if the care is comprehensive. If the drugstore, for example, were right across the street from the center, and were easily available to the people being seen at the center, there is no reason the people couldn't go there for their drugs.

But if the drugstore was a long way off, and there was some concern about that kind of problem, then it is possible that the community might invite the drugstore to set up a branch within the health center.

So there are a number of options that could be considered by communities that are beginning such programs.

Mr. QUIE. But at the present time none of them has made arrangements for a private vendor of drugs. They all dispense them within the Centers. Is that what you said?

Dr. ENGLISH. I didn't hear the question, sir.

Mr. QUIE. I say, so far, all these neighborhood health centers have not made arrangements for a private vendor to furnish the drugs, but provide them within the center. Is that what you told me?

Dr. ENGLISH. Yes; that is correct, though that would not be true of many of the new programs that were funded this year. There are some variations on that approach in some of the new programs I recall, and in at least one or two of them it is my recollection that pharmaceutical services were sufficiently proximate to where the centers were going to be, that it would be worked out with a pharmacy.

Mr. SHRIVER. This issue came up in Watts, where the drugstore man near the center was worried he was going to be put out of business, and he is on the board of trustees. He is not out of business at all. The big worry is that somebody is going to give away something somebody is handling, and that is not happening.

Mr. QUIE. Wouldn't somebody give away drugs that somebody else is selling in the center?

Mr. SHRIVER. If the drugstore is 5 miles away—

Mr. QUIE. What if it is not 5 miles away?

Mr. SHRIVER. Then it will be incorporated in the center. It has been taken care of in Watts, and it will be taken care of elsewhere.

Dr. ENGLISH. That level of concern was felt by all the local practitioners in the area, including the pharmacies, and the Watts Pharmaceutical Association is represented together with a local physician, and they have a chance to come to grips with how total comprehensive care will be provided and they are represented as well as everyone else who has an interest in this.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. QUIE. Yes.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I am not sure you are driving at this, but you are talking about people on poverty and to a great extent on public welfare, so if the center has drugs it can give away, what is wrong with that?

If somebody has to pay for them, it is the taxpayer who has to pay for them.

Mr. QUIE. Under title 19, the beneficiary can purchase the drugs from a private vendor.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Who pays the beneficiary? You and I.

Mr. QUIE. The taxpayer.

Mr. PUCINSKI. If OEO could negotiate some other procedure and