

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you would care to be interviewed for allergy symptoms?

Senator NELSON. We tried it for 5 minutes yesterday to be sure I was smart enough to operate it.

Mr. CALLAHAN. OK.

Mr. Murray, is the computer ready to talk with our patient?

Mr. MURRAY. In just a few seconds.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Just to remind you again, Mr. Chairman, in order to respond with a yes to the computer, you simply strike the No. 1 key. To respond no, strike No. 2. If you do not know the answer to the question presented, strike No. 3. If you do not understand the question, strike No. 4.

I will turn it over to you, Mr. Murray.

Senator NELSON. The teletypewriter has given me some instructions. It has just typed out, "The demonstration you are about to see will show how a physician can use a computer to assist him in the gathering of medical data. You will be shown how a computer many miles away can remotely take the medical history of the patient. This is typical of the on-line computer medicine research at the University of Wisconsin Department of Medicine and Clinical Laboratories at Madison, Wis.

"For complete program, push button 1 and return. For medical questions only, push No. 2 and return. For instructions, push No. 3 and return."

I pushed No. 2 and return for the next question.

The question asked by the computer is:

"Are you a physician specializing primarily in the treatment of patients with allergies?"

I will fib to it a little and say "Yes."

So here are the questions that are being submitted now to the patient of a physician who primarily treats allergies. The question to the patient is, "Have you ever had asthma as defined by intermittent episodes of wheezing and dyspnea?"

I will answer that "Yes."

The next question is, "Have you ever had allergic rhinitis as defined by intermittent episodes of runny or stuffy nose and sneezing?"

I can push "Yes" or "No" or I can push button "I do not understand," or "I do not know."

I will continue with the yes and say "Yes" to it.

Next question is, "Have you ever been married?"

I had better say "Yes" to that.

Next question is, "Have you ever been married to a spouse with asthma, allergic rhinitis, or exzema?"

I will answer "No."

What I assume is that this will go through a series of logical questions based upon my answers until it has exhausted all of the information put into the bank.

Is that right, Doctor?

Dr. MEYER. Yes.

(The illustration and printout referred to follow:)