

Dr. MEYER. Yes, he gets it in a digested form. The computer will ask all the questions and then it will print out the history in a digested form so that the physician does not have to go through all this.

Senator NELSON. So the doctor will not read it in the form of 320 questions and answers; is that right?

Dr. MEYER. No, sir; he will get the major portions of the history, the significant portions where there have been a positive response. He will get that; he will get the positively negative, if I could put it that way, points in the history. If he requests from the computer whether or not it has asked other questions, he can find out. The computer will also give the response to the particular question that the physician happens to be interested in, and that is not printed out in his printout.

Senator NELSON. Then how much reliance does he put on it? By that I mean does he read the history and then decide from reading of it whether or not he would like personally to explore some aspects of the various questions or answers in more detail? Or can you make this sufficiently sophisticated so that there would not be much point in the doctor going any further?

Dr. MEYER. I think that physicians will always ask some questions relating to the history. I think that the interview, and we teach in medical school that the history contributes significantly, probably 75 percent toward the diagnosis of the condition.

From the information obtained from the history, the physician is directed to what type of examination he should do, what type of tests he should do in establishing the diagnosis for the patient.

I think that physicians will be reluctant to not do anything in the way of questioning. I think that their questions will be very much more directed, having obtained this backlog of history which they must have before they can proceed with their diagnostic process.

Senator NELSON. I notice that on the machine the minimum number of questions that could be answered is 29, assuming, I suppose, that every answer was negative as to any allergic or complication at all.

Dr. MEYER. Yes.

Senator NELSON. The number of questions in the machine is 500 and the maximum that can be answered is 320—is that what Mr. Callahan said?

Dr. MEYER. Yes.

Senator NELSON. If a patient answered 320, what is your rough estimate of how much time it would have taken if a physician had followed that same procedure himself?

Dr. MEYER. I would think it would be maybe an hour or an hour and a half, 2 hours. I really do not know. It depends a great deal on the ability of immediate recall of the patient. You know perfectly well that if somebody says to you, is there any diabetes in your family, you have to then think whether Great Aunt Maude had diabetes or whatever. It is dependent on the intelligence of the patient, and on his ability to recall immediately the facts which you require.

Senator NELSON. May I ask this—have you, in experimenting with this, taken some real situations in which you had an intern or doctor