

medical education. Richard H. Lyons, M.D., director of the central New York regional medical program states:

One of the biggest problems in conducting a regional medical program is in the communications between hospitals in the region. * * * Most doctors are unaware of what other community hospitals have to offer in the way of facilities and talent. Ideally, if all hospitals could be interconnected, gaps would be greatly reduced so that consultations between doctors could be expedited as well as the continuing education of physicians, laboratory personnel, nurses and others.

With this objective and to make the best medical resources available to other hospitals in the region, Dr. Lyons established a multipoint telephone conference service interconnecting the Upstate Medical Center with 13 other hospitals within the region. This arrangement permits doctors in Syracuse to give lectures to groups assembled at the participating hospitals. The system is used between 6 and 13 hours per day and telephone conferences are conducted 6 days a week.

The University of Wisconsin Medical Center is also making wide use of Telelecture to some 60 hospital locations across the State. The university is also pioneering in another program of continuing medical education which deserves comment. A Wisconsin physician, confronted late at night with a problem in treating acute meningitis, needs only to reach for a telephone to obtain expert advice. The same is true for the Wisconsin physician who would like to review basic information on the diagnosis and treatment of moles and melanoma. Information on these and 86 other medical subjects are available 24 hours a day through a unique service provided by the university medical center.

By dialing a special telephone number, the physician may listen to tape-recorded lectures prepared by members of the medical school's faculty or the hospital's staff. The lectures average 5 minutes in length, and if the recorded lecture does not provide the specific information sought by the physician, he may contact the lecturer directly, because each tape is concluded with the lecturer's telephone number.

Any new developments in the medical field can be directly taped and immediately made available through this program.

We would like to make a demonstration call to the tape library at the university now and after we hear how it sounds to the local physician, we will ask Dr. Meyer who has been closely associated with both the Telelecture and the tape library to comment on the effectiveness of these programs.

Senator NELSON. Is that call going to be made now?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Yes.

(Whereupon the demonstration described by Mr. Callahan was made for the subcommittee.)

Mr. CALLAHAN. In the interest of time, if it pleases you, we will cut off the tape and ask Dr. Meyer to continue.

Senator NELSON. As I understand, there are some 88 lectures on specific subjects which are available if a physician in Wisconsin makes the telephone call to the university hospital; is that correct?

Dr. MEYER. Any physician throughout the country can call in to this and exhibit 2 in the exhibits I have given you, gives an idea of the scope of the tapes that we now have available. There are now some 170-odd tapes that will become available actually in the middle of November.