

STATEMENT OF DR. CECIL L. WITTSON, DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF
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Dr. WITTSON. Two-way closed circuit television makes possible electronic face-to-face communication between individuals and/or groups, though they may be separated by any number of miles.

In Nebraska we have used this communications tool for 3 years to link Nebraska Psychiatric Institute at the University Medical Center in Omaha and Norfolk State Mental Hospital, 112 miles away.

Though this State hospital is a progressive institution, it still shares common problems with many such facilities throughout the country, problems such as recruiting and holding staff, providing adequate staff education programs, and last, but far from least, the problem of utilizing much-needed specialist services, available only at a large but remotely located medical center.

In 1964 we proposed to use two-way television to fill some of these needs and we received a 7-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for a pilot project.

Northwestern Bell Telephone installed and now maintains our two-way transmission system which is in actual use an average of 50 hours each week.

Educational uses

Now, to give you some idea of the potential of the system, let me describe to you just a few of the uses:

Various disciplines in the two institutions—the nurses, social workers, and vocational rehabilitation counselors, each meet regularly for joint seminars, lectures, and videotape presentations.

(The illustration referred to follows:)

