

ments, particularly of equipment, which is one area that we can make the medical dollar go further, and this would also go with personnel, as well.

As we move into this very active area of specialized medical services, to use one example, kidney transplant, or organ transplantation, for example.

That we can justify only, not only in terms of dollars but available personnel, as a team that can work both at the university hospital, or what other general hospital that might exist, with the university and the VA hospital in order to fully utilize not only their equipment, but their expertise, and I believe that there is a fine rapport in relationship that has been encouraged very much with the meetings that both Dr. Musser and myself have had with the deans of the medical schools.

Dr. Musser came on board January 2 of this year, and immediately launched into a program of meetings, and we held five regional meetings with the medical deans or their representatives in order to underscore our concern and our desire to move forward in this area that you so eloquently spoke to.

I think perhaps Dr. Wells might have something to add, because he is the professional man and a former member of several faculties.

Dr. WELLS. Well, 93 of our hospitals are affiliated, as Mr. Johnson says, with 79 medical schools. There are 101 medical schools at the present time in some state of existence. We are in negotiations with approximately 20 of the newly developing medical schools, all of whom want to establish an affiliation with VA hospitals.

Mr. JOHNSON. I might say, Senator, if I may interrupt here, that in trying to meet this national problem of medical personnel, that for example in Shreveport, La., at our campus, the VA campus there will be a new medical school established in cooperation with HEW and other agencies that are supplying some funds. We believe that this might be one way in which, so far as MD's are concerned and the expansion of classroom space, that we can work very well so that there can be a quick acceleration of the available medical schools.

Senator HATFIELD. Let me ask you a question in the area of specialties relating to the possibility of expanding relationships with other than Federal programs, such as State programs. There are two areas.

One is the area of mental health and the mental institutions that the VA operates. What kind of working relationships have you developed there, or are you developing, between the VA hospitals of that type and State or private mental hospitals?

Mr. JOHNSON. I am going to let Dr. Wells speak to this. I would say that we are cooperating with State agencies and in some instances city governments and outpatient mental health clinics and so on.

In fact, we are even letting some of our doctors become involved in those programs on an active basis.

Dr. WELLS. We have a full State hospital program that we support, Senator Hatfield, that is important in this area. I might call on Dr. Haber in a moment, but let me say the policy has been now for some years to move out of the area of purely mental hospitals and to establish psychiatric units in our general mental hospitals.