

reckoning" (letter No. 1325). Another surgeon from a small town in Florida noted that "the program is designed to save \$88.8 million but informed sources estimate that implementing the program will cost \$275 million. So obviously, it is not to save money but to further socialism" (letter No. 1618). Another citizen of uncertain address and occupation made the same point and added: "If you have read the Communist Manifesto, you would know that socialism is just a nice name for communism" (letter No. 1729). These letters far outnumbered those which favored the MAC proposals.

Many letters were received stating the positions of various organizations. The positions of the organizations were quite predictable: State and local medical and pharmaceutical organizations were uniformly opposed, while consumer organizations were uniformly in favor of, the proposed regulations.

The purpose of these hearings during the next 3 days, therefore, is to present for the benefit of the Congress and the general public an accurate description of HEW's plan to save the taxpayers money as well as the point of view of some interested parties. It is unfortunate that the American Medical Association decided at almost the last moment not to send a representative to present its point of view. In addition, the president of the Ayerst Co., whose detail men labored hard to stimulate and encourage opposition to HEW's plan, has informed us that he has decided to go abroad and will be unable to come.

Mr. Secretary, your statement will be entered in full in the record. We are happy to have you present it however you desire. You may elaborate on it, extemporize from it, however you wish.¹ For purposes of the record, please identify your associates so that the comments they make will be in the correct place under the correct identification in the record.

Mr. Secretary?

STATEMENT OF HON. CASPAR W. WEINBERGER, SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, ACCOMPANIED BY STEPHEN KURZMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION; THEODORE COOPER, M.D., ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH; ALEXANDER M. SCHMIDT, COMMISSIONER, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION; DR. KEITH WEIKEL, COMMISSIONER, MEDICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICE; DR. MARK NOVITCH, DEPUTY ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION; DR. J. RICHARD CROUT, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF DRUGS, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION; AND VINCENT R. GARDNER, CHIEF, DRUG STUDIES BRANCH, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Secretary WEINBERGER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate very much the opportunity to appear before you and I am delighted to be accompanied by my associates.

¹ See prepared statement, page 11936.