

however, that the Veterans Administration itself must furnish the necessary leadership, competence, and communication so that each veterans' hospital may become a center of excellence.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 53

The Commission recommends an acceleration of the program of modernization and replacement of the Veterans Administration hospital and domiciliary system.

Background to Recommendation:

The contribution that the VA-operated hospital system has made to the enhancement of medical technology in our country and its contribution to the general medical well being of that part of the veteran population entitled to the service the system provides is magnificent. No small part of the VA's ability to make these two major contributions may be attributed to a forward looking improvement, modernization and new construction program of their plants. The tempo and magnitude of the improvement and modernization of the physical plant and new construction has not been what it should be. It should be increased. The Commission strongly recommends that the new construction and modernization program be materially increased in order to stay ahead of inroads of depreciation and obsolescence.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 54

The Commission recommends that salaries for Veterans Administration personnel be raised to, and maintained at, levels which will enable the Veterans Administration to compete effectively in recruiting and retaining essential personnel.

Background to Recommendation:

The shortage of skilled manpower in almost every professional and technical area, throughout the nation, is a problem which has confronted the nation for several years. Although efforts are under way to alleviate this situation, it is impossible to predict when a supply-demand equilibrium