

Mr. STEED. Very briefly, Mr. Chairman. I am more interested in hope that something that is that direction will come out of it.

Mr. EVERETT. Talking about getting something unsatisfactory, have you ever gotten anything satisfactory out of them?

Mr. STEED. In other areas and in years gone by I have been able to work with them where it has turned out quite satisfactorily. I hope perhaps we can do so this time.

Mr. ROBERTS. I just believe these guys can work it out if they want to without our having to get as rough as we might.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Meadows?

STAFF DIRECTOR. I have no questions.

Mr. EVERETT. Thank you, Mr. Steed. You always make a wonderful contribution and we appreciate your coming by and letting us have the benefit of your views.

Mr. STEED. I really believe this is a serious matter. I think you are to be highly commended for trying to get this worked out.

Mr. EVERETT. Don't you think this act was passed 2 or 3 years ago when they just called it to their attention and don't you think it is highly irregular to assess them with all these back payments?

Mr. STEED. I think in a situation like this that instead of following the hairsplitting letter of the law it is much wiser to use plain commonsense. I think we are more interested in what happens from here

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them under medicare and minimum wage, people keeping medicare patients will jump on Members of Congress and we will be right on your backs. What are you going to do about that? Don't you think you should make some kind of decision?

Mr. ROBERTSON. We will make a decision on the medicare problem as soon as we can. I would rather not prejudge the decision.

Mr. EVERETT. I don't want you to. The Medicare Act has been in effect for some time now. These people out here are barely making ends meet with these nursing homes. I certainly think we owe it to them to let them know where they are.

Mr. EVERETT. Would you be available to work with our staff here later on, and with Mr. Stratton of VA, Mr. Walker and Mr. Pickens of the Nursing Home Association, to see whether we can resolve this while these gentlemen are in town? Could you meet with them in the morning at 10 o'clock?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Yes, sir.