

program is supplying the means by which Meharry, with the cooperation of Vanderbilt University, can establish a multiphasic screening laboratory as an adjunct to the neighborhood health center. The cooperation with Vanderbilt involves consultation and computer services needed for the automated laboratory procedures and recordkeeping. Regional medical program support will help us uncover heart disease, cancer, and stroke in this population in the earliest stages, provide documentation of the incidence and type of these disorders, assist in the initiation of necessary treatment, and aid in evaluating the treatment these patients receive at the neighborhood health center.

The potential of a cooperative arrangement between a multiphasic screening laboratory for the identification of need for medical care through early diagnosis and of a neighborhood health center for meeting that need is very great. This activity would have been difficult, if not impossible, to undertake without the help of regional medical programs. Many of the essential and important elements of regional medical programs are present in this one project: The bringing together of previously disparate elements of the medical care system—providing of manpower and funds to get things done—and the coming to grips with the really significant health issues of our region.

The involvement in regional medical programs of Meharry and Vanderbilt medical schools and of many other medical schools in this country, is far from superficial. Indeed, in many areas the medical school was instrumental in the establishment of the regional medical program and these institutions have lent their expert assistance in launching this major new program. They are accepting responsibilities beyond the traditional ones of teaching medical students and conducting research. They have begun new programs to translate more promptly the fruits of medical research into improved care for the people within the regions that they serve.

I shall like to close simply by giving my earnest and enthusiastic support to the legislation extending this program. I sincerely hope that you will agree with my estimation of its great importance.

Thank you for the privilege of speaking before you today.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Dr. Elam.

Are there any questions?

Mr. KYROS. I have only a few questions.

Dr. Chapman and Dr. Elam, I want to welcome you here and thank you for your statements.

Dr. Chapman, on page 2 of your statement you include in your remarks that occasionally one hears the view that the medical schools are attempting to use the regional medical program for the purpose of gaining control of the Nation's health care system.

Would you kindly expand on that a little bit? What is the problem there? I didn't know such a problem existed.

Dr. CHAPMAN. This is something that has largely begun to disappear, I think. We heard this a good deal when the law was first passed. In addition, we have heard fears expressed that the medical schools might simply take funds that were available under this law and use them for standard, ongoing medical school purchases.

Of course, this is not possible under the law, and I think I can state with assurance that no medical school is doing that. Most of us have