

to any doctor in the region in behalf of his patient. In such complexes where a critical mass of expertise is to be found, primary responsibilities will include continuing education with the help of technical equipment in the modern idiom, demonstrations of new techniques for diagnosis of treatment, and consultation services to the community hospitals and all doctors in the region, in addition to the conduct of research designed to provide solutions for problems in cancer which can not be satisfactorily handled on the basis of present knowledge.

(3) It has been estimated by experts that if we could make available to every patient with cancer in the country today all that is known concerning diagnosis and treatment, we could save 100,000 of the more than 300,000 who will die of cancer this year. This is without new knowledge emanating from research laboratories. It is a goal that can be achieved by the full development of these Regional Medical Programs in the field of cancer alone.

(4) As was the case with the Hill-Burton program, and also the Health Facilities Research Construction Program of the National Institutes of Health, investment of Federal money will be sure to call forth investment from the private sector. You will be interested I am sure in one experience in a part of our Country which has serious need for improvements in the field of cancer.

The commodity of Anchorage, Alaska, in response to the needs identified by the Washington-Alaska Regional Medical Program for high energy radiation treatment facility closer than Seattle, Washington, is now conducting a fund raising campaign. Solicited private funds will be used to construct housing for the equipment, which will be purchased by the Regional Medical Program. The treatment center will be operated as a regional resource by the Providence Hospital, as planned and approved by local and regional advisory groups. The decision to support the activity involves cooperative arrangements at another level also, for the National Cancer Institute conducted a site visit which gave assurance of the sound scientific and professional basis of this project. I heard just before coming here that the Anchorage Building and Construction Trades Council, comprising some 14 unions have taken on the construction of the building as a project, contributing more than one half of the total cost from this one source alone.

RECOMMENDATION

The time for increasing the support for these Regional Programs in Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke has come on the basis of the truly splendid start that has been made. The upward trend of needs—almost double each year—is apparent as more programs reach the stage of actual operation. In fiscal 1967 only 4 programs were operating; in 1968, 20 more will reach that stage. Even to make possible the universal application of such a simple and established technique for detection of cancer of the uterus at the Papanicolaou smear, is an expensive procedure, but one that will be followed by the saving of thousands of lives of women each year. We should emphasize, too, that many segments of our system—in ghettos, rural areas, or old-age homes among others, have little or no access to modern scientific health technologies.

We are aware that particularly at this time priorities must be established and that choices must be made. It is our purpose today merely to point out the great good that will come if there is support of programs which have already demonstrated their ability to achieve the goals defined by the President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke and put into law by the Congress of our Country on the recommendation of this Committee. From the time of the identification of these goals in P.L. 89-239, the Regional Medical Programs have captured the imagination and raised the expectations of the general public and the health provisions alike. Those who have studied the needs of this program most carefully recommend that the ceiling for the national program as a whole should reach the level of more than 500 million dollars within 5 years, and should certainly not be lower than 300 million dollars for 1971 if we are to utilize to the full the strength which has been mobilized in the various regions of the country in behalf of the health of our own people.

I close these remarks confident in the belief that the leadership to the Congress offered by your Committee will permit these Regional Medical Programs to make a truly great contribution to the health of all of us.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Dr. Farber. We are indebted to you for being here and giving us your opinion on this program.