

As I recall, and I am not certain this is the exact number, but I recall one of the larger regions estimated that it would need approximately 90 professional people.

Mr. ROGERS. All doctors?

Dr. RUHE. Not necessarily M.D.'s, but persons at that comparable degree level, in order to carry on the administrative work and the direction of the program. Thus, one of the immediate effects has been a rather considerable increase in the competition for—that isn't perhaps the right word—but in the available opportunities for employment of professional people at the administrative level.

We have noticed this already. I think it has been noticed in the medical schools which have been actively involved in the regional activities. It has been necessary for them to add additional faculty and administrative personnel in order to discharge their responsibilities under the program.

These people have to come from somewhere. They were not in great supply before. A number of them have come out of practice, and while we feel ultimately this may result in more efficient utilization of health care services, we think there is an immediate effect here in providing some competition for manpower in the health field.

This is, I think, the basis for this statement.

Mr. ROGERS. Well, now, what I wondered was this: For instance, I envisioned the fact that you would carry on a continuing education program, perhaps through television, where you have an expert in a medical center giving instruction to your local hospitals in a certain treatment that may have just come out; so that you don't have to send instructors out to each hospital, or have each doctor come in and take that time to come to the medical center. But the communication is one of the means that you are going to cut down on the use of manpower, I would hope.

Is this envisioned?

Dr. RUHE. Yes; it is.

Mr. ROGERS. So there are so many things where I think you would be saving the time of the local doctor; so you don't have to have five doctors where one doctor may do the work of two doctors—for instance, where he performs his exam and wants a reading on an X-ray, and he sees something that is wrong, but he can get it in the medical center where it comes back immediately with a communication on the diagnosis.

Isn't that going to save him time and enable him to see more patients?

Dr. RUHE. I think in time it will.

Mr. ROGERS. Right; and this is what we are concerned with, getting the health to the people, and this is the reason this program was envisioned and adopted, I think.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS. Yes.

Mr. CARTER. I want to say something in behalf of the general practitioner in this case, if you please. I don't think we should sell him too short. He is a man who is known by the fruits of his labor. If he doesn't produce, certainly his practice is going to fall off, and he does take part in schools. He goes as a member of the Academy of General Practice. He is required regularly to go to school.