

ing on the hospital. The cost of taking care of a patient in an intermediate or nursing home facility would range between \$20 and \$30 a day, much less than in a general hospital.

Mr. GUDE. So there would be a considerable saving by having more aftercare facilities?

Dr. GRANT. I would think so, yes, sir.

Mr. GUDE. I understand there is a long waiting period for patients seeking care at the emergency facility at D.C. General Hospital. Are these all emergency cases? I have heard of people having to wait eight hours for care.

Dr. GRANT. We have approximately 70,000 emergency visits at D.C. General Hospital per year. Of this number, 70 percent are not emergencies, but I would like to report to you that for the past two years or more we have developed a system whereby every patient coming in the emergency room at D.C. General Hospital is seen within fifteen minutes. The attempt is then made to distinguish between the cases that are emergencies and those that are not. It is the 70 percent that are not emergencies that sometimes have to wait for a certain length of time.

Mr. GUDE. Is it economical to have these people come to D.C. General Hospital?

Dr. GRANT. We are attempting to develop a system of neighborhood facilities which we believe, when implemented, and when the Medicaid program is implemented, should substantially reduce the number of people who go to the emergency room at D.C. General.

Mr. GUDE. Are you getting the necessary funds for these neighborhood facilities?

Dr. GRANT. We are getting funds to implement the Medicaid program. We are attempting to change our program in order to develop a neighborhood health center program.

Mr. GUDE. Thank you.

Mr. SISK. May I inquire what is the average per bed per day cost at D.C. General Hospital?

Dr. GRANT. The present cost at D.C. General Hospital is \$73.91 per patient per day.

Mr. SISK. \$73.91?

Dr. GRANT. Yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. Per bed per patient?

Dr. GRANT. Yes, sir, per day.

Mr. SISK. We are not talking about any doctor bills or anything of that kind?

Dr. GRANT. No, sir, this is hospital cost.

Mr. SISK. \$73.91?

Dr. GRANT. Yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. How does that compare with the national average?

Dr. GRANT. The national average at the present time is lower than that. The latest figures are for 1965 so we don't have the up-to-date figures, but, as you know, hospital costs are increasing rapidly all over the country and while that figure is a little higher than the national average, I don't think it is much higher. I think you will find that while it is true many hospitals are lower than that, many are higher. Many hospitals are rapidly approaching \$100 a day.