

Mr. SISK. Do you happen by any chance to have that same figure for 1960?

Dr. GRANT. Not offhand, Mr. Chairman. I would have to supply it for the record.

Mr. SISK. Can you give me the percentage annual rate of increase for 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965?

Dr. GRANT. I can give the rate of increase from last year to this year, which was between 16 and 20 percent. It is 16 or 20 percent higher this year than last year.

Mr. SISK. How do you account for that?

Dr. GRANT. Primarily this year because of salaries, particularly for the nursing staff and auxiliary staff. Nurses' salaries have gone up from a starting salary of \$5500 to a starting salary of \$7,000 in the last two years in the whole Washington Metropolitan area. This has contributed greatly to hospital costs because the nursing staff at D. C. General Hospital is between 40 and 50 percent of the total staff.

Mr. SISK. I am aware, of course, of the high cost of medical care throughout the Nation. I know something about it in my home town where we work closely with the managers of the various hospitals. I am curious as to where we are going nationally. I am not sure of the exact situation, but I understand from the press and others that there were much of the facilities in D.C. General Hospital unused for a considerable period of time primarily because you didn't have the personnel. What is the situation today?

Dr. GRANT. We currently have 324 registered nurses at D.C. General. We have 84 vacancies. This is better than was true in January but it is still not good. With this rate of vacancies there are two things we can do. We can either maintain a certain number of beds vacant or we can attempt to recruit sub-professional staff such as nurse assistants to provide the care now furnished by nurses. We have been endeavoring to follow the latter road and would hope to fill the beds by this kind of a program.

Mr. SISK. We are talking here about a construction program during the next three or four years. \$90 million, I believe, is the figure you named as the amount needed for health care facility construction in the District of Columbia. If at the present time 20 or 25 percent of the facilities of D.C. General Hospital cannot be used because of the lack of personnel. What specifically are you and other concerned with this situation in the District of Columbia doing to improve conditions as to recruiting and training of personnel?

Dr. GRANT. I will be glad to relate to this. I would like to clarify something before I report on that. What I have indicated as existing in D.C. General Hospital does not obtain in all hospitals in the District. There is at least one hospital that is worse off than D.C. General, but most are better off than D.C. General.

Mr. SISK. Is that because of salary differentials or other things?

Dr. GRANT. There are a lot of factors involved in that. There is in essence no major salary differential in the Washington area at the present time, but I would hasten to point out you are absolutely correct that one of our most serious problems today relates to a severe shortage of manpower. We have in fact endeavored during the past four years to develop training programs in the District for nurses. We have had refresher programs to bring nurses back in the fold, so to