

Mr. HANNAN. Now I am out of my field.

Mr. WHITENER. Of course, our field is to see that justice and equity is done. I cannot conceive of an area which has the highest per capita income in the Nation not being a more fertile area for public subscription to private hospitals than would be true in a low income area. This is the thing I just do not follow.

I am very interested in helping the Nation's Capital, but I think it is easier to come here and testify for 30 minutes and get millions than it is to roll up your sleeves and go out and launch a public subscription campaign to get the money. That may be the problem.

If my district came here and made the presentation that you are making for itself because it is a poor area I do not think they would even get off the ground and nobody would pay any attention to them.

Mr. HANNAN. Of course, we cannot have a bond issue without this Committee's agreement. In the past this never has been done here for the reasons I have already stated. We are not allowed to promote a bond issue here.

Mr. WHITENER. You have a right, and the government does, to fix taxes on real estate. They have the same fund raising opportunities that others have.

I might point out that my district does not have any Federal Payment, either, from which you derive a substantial amount of money.

I believe our folks would trade their right to vote bonds on which they have to pay taxes to liquidate in exchange for a Federal payment. I might submit that issue, too.

I am not hostile to hospitals but I just do not understand why it seems to be the attitude that people here should do nothing for themselves but that the people who work in the cotton mills of my district or on the tobacco farms with less than an acre's allotment or working in a furniture factory should be paying the cost of hospitalization for two-thirds of the patients who live in other areas and who constitute a population which has the highest per capita income in the country. It does not make sense to me.

I think I can mount a platform in any area outside the metropolitan area and make any member of Congress who felt that way look pretty stupid.

Mr. HANNAN. Of course, I do not know your county, sir.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. WHITENER. And you talk about extended care. Do you know what they are doing all over this country? Medicenter, a private enterprise organization, is building extended care facilities in my hometown and all over the country to take care of the problem that you talk about. Private enterprise can do that and apparently make a profit out of it.

Has anything been done here on that?

Mr. HANNAN. Apparently Medicenter has been to Washington and surveyed this area and found, first of all, that the cost of land is so high as to send them back before they start. I have spoken to those people and attempted to have them interested in some of our places.

Secondly, our zoning laws are such as to preclude in many instances the establishment of this type of center upon the areas which usually surround our hospitals in the residential areas.