

(Subsequently, Dr. Werble submitted the following additional information:

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C., June 27, 1968.

The Honorable, B. F. SISK,
Chairman, Subcommittee No. 5, House District Committee, U.S. House of
Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SISK: I hope this supplementary statement can be made a part of the record of your hearing, held June 17, by your subcommittee on HR 6526 dealing with government grants and loans for the construction of hospital facilities in the District of Columbia.

As you may recall, I filed a brief general statement, as president of Children's Hospital, and added several moments of oral comment at the tag end of your hearing.

Primary purpose of this statement is to furnish additional information on the tabulation of funding requirements, placed in the record by Mr. William M. Bucher, as spokesman for the Hospital Council of the National Capital Area. This tabulation lists the estimated cost of a new Children's Hospital at \$22 million. It is based on a figure supplied by our institution to the Hospital Council many months ago when work on this legislation was first initiated.

This figure represents our earliest estimate, calculated before we had moved very far into the planning process. According to the latest estimates from the hospital planning consultants we have retained, the figure will be in the range of \$30 million to \$40 million, probably closer to the latter.

This is important because the point was raised during the subcommittee hearings on the willingness of residents of the Metropolitan Washington Area to undertake voluntary action to match government aid in developing and maintaining the kind of hospital and medical facilities that are required for the Nation's Capital and the area that surrounds it.

Assuming a cost figure of \$35 million for rebuilding Children's Hospital on the Washington Hospital Center grounds, the funds authorized by HR 6526 would provide a federal grant in the order of only \$11 million, based on the Hospital Council's tabulation that was made part of the Senate committee report on the companion bill which has been passed.

If the House bill is amended to include loan authority, proposed by the Hospital Council and supported by a number of institutions—including Children's, we might become eligible to borrow another \$11 million for 50 years at a low rate of interest.

This would give us a base of \$22 million. To this, we can add an anticipated yield from the sale of our present property—perhaps several million.

But the difference between this and the \$35 million to \$40 million anticipated total cost would have to be raised by a vigorous voluntary fund campaign, undertaken in the Metropolitan Area and, hopefully, on a national basis. The raising of \$10 million to \$15 million is a massive undertaking for the citizens of the community who serve as volunteer members of the Children's Hospital Board. An effort to explain the motivation for this effort was made in my brief prepared statement, already a part of the record.

Children's also would like to go on record as favoring the proposed amendment permitting the use of funds for the construction of new beds, as well as the replacement of existing ones.

We now have a 225-bed hospital. Our consultants tell us that this number does not permit the most economical operation of a regional medical facility that seeks to achieve excellence in the kind of situations which might mean the difference between life and death. We are advised that a 350-bed hospital may be required for efficient and effective operations.

We appreciate the time and thoughtful consideration given by you and the members of your subcommittee to the problem of maintaining adequate medical facilities in the Nation's Capital to serve the surrounding area and region.

Sincerely yours,

WALLACE WERBLE, *President.*

Mr. SISK. Now we have Dr. Burke.