

Dr. LEE. Well, you can take an example of a research area which is in the forefront now, and that is the area of cardiovascular surgery, the development of artificial hearts and heart transplants.

You find a number of university centers where these programs are ongoing.

We will promote, we believe, the advance of knowledge, which then, of course, is disseminated to the students and to many practitioners and actually much of it to the public as well, more rapidly, more effectively, if we don't put all of our eggs, you might say, into one basket.

There are a variety of people working in basic research in genetics, for better understanding of a variety of diseases related to heredity. These programs are supported in a number of institutions, and it would be hard, I think, to say that we should divert people from those activities.

I wouldn't really describe this as overlap. I think these are complementary research activities. We have an extensive information exchange program, not only through scientific journals, but through our own program, and through the library of medicine, which is very helpful to investigators to know what other people are doing. And through their participation with the scientists at NIH and through a variety of other activities in communication, I think that there is little—there may be some, I think it is unavoidable—when we are supporting a kind of broad base vital research program that we are now supporting.

But I think it is more of a complementary nature.

Mr. NELSEN. Congressman Rogers asked about nurses and doctors, and I want to know about the shortage of veterinarians. Being a farmer, I need to know that.

Dr. LEE. We can give you some projections on this. I don't have those immediately available. There are a variety of roles that are played by the veterinarian in public health, and not only in terms of animal health, but also in terms of domestic public health and prevention of transmission of disease to human beings and the improvement of animal health to improve our food supply, as well as the world's food supply. And, of course, this is one of the most critical problems in the world today, and veterinarians are playing an increasingly important role.

So the shortage really would depend on how narrowly, or how broadly, you define their role.

(The information requested follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE STATEMENT ON SHORTAGE OF
VETERINARIANS

Veterinary science makes significant contributions to human health in the maintenance of a safe and abundant food supply, in the testing of biologicals and pharmaceuticals used in both human and animal medicine, in safeguarding humans against the diseases of animals which are transmissible to man, and in protecting American livestock and poultry against foreign animal disease.

We are aware, however, of no evidence of a shortage of veterinarians comparable in terms of a negative impact on human health to the shortages we are facing in those health professions which provide human patient care. Shortages of veterinarians in areas most directly affecting human health may be more directly related to distribution of veterinary practice than a total shortage in the profession.

Of the 26,000 veterinarians in the United States, only a fraction are employed directly in regulatory or public health aspects of veterinary medicine. Some