

This indicates that we will have to increase the supply to approximately 60,000 nurse graduates a year. The critical nature of the situation facing the Nation will be seen when it is realized that during the period 1964-65 there were 34,686 nurse graduates and during the period 1965-66 there were 35,125—or an increase of less than 500 graduates in nursing. Thus, even with the Nurse Training Act of 1964 in effect, we have continued to fall very substantially short of meeting the need.

Just what does this shortage mean? The needs of the military have grown with the Vietnam war and these needs require continued and active recruitment of nurses who can come only from the civilian pool. The 1967 published figures indicate that the Federal Government employed 32,793 nurses. The medicare and medicaid programs will continue to increase substantially the health care being provided, and various studies reveal that the nursing requirements of aged patients are much greater than those for younger patients. The Government has assured the 19 million senior citizens of the country the right to access to care not only in hospitals, but in extended-care facilities and home health services.

A great many hospitals report serious shortages affecting their ability to provide care. In some instances, whole sections or floors of hospitals are closed because they cannot be staffed. Some institutions are being forced out of the medicare program because they cannot provide the required nursing supervision. The Federal Government is investing large sums of money in medical research which, when translated into patient care, inevitably means additional essential nursing care.

I am including herewith for the record a page of newspaper accounts illustrating the effects of the shortage of nurses on various hospitals throughout the country:

THE NURSE SHORTAGE: EXAMPLES OF EFFECTS ON AVAILABILITY OF PATIENT CARE

Los Angeles, California.—"Cedars-Sinai Hospital reports closing of ten percent of its bed capacity due to a shortage of nurses." (*Los Angeles Citizen-News*, 8/3/66.)

Boston, Massachusetts.—"Some 25 badly needed beds stand empty in the Pratt and Farnsworth Buildings of the New England Medical Center Hospital in Boston because there are no nurses to care for the patients they would hold." (*Washington Post*, 9/18/66.)

Louisville, Kentucky.—"The opening of one unit of a two-unit, 22 room addition to the Floyd County Memorial Hospital may be delayed because of a nursing shortage, hospital administrator William I. Fender said today." (*Louisville Times*, 10/24/67.)

Atlanta, Georgia.—"Governor Lester Maddox transferred \$50,000 from his emergency fund to finance a 'blueprint for action' to meet Georgia's nursing needs by 1975." [The Governor said] "I sure do know about the shortage of nurses. I had to take the third shift at the hospital when my wife was sick." (*Atlanta Constitution*, 19/28/67.)

Providence, Rhode Island.—"Lloyd H. Hughes, executive director of the Rhode Island Hospital, said, 'We are unable to completely staff the hospital. As a result, 76 beds representing all of the beds on our ninth floor and eight beds in the emergency room are not available to take patients' . . . The situation is part of a national dilemma in which 79,000 registered nurses are needed immediately." (*Providence Bulletin*, 9/15/67.)

Washington, D.C.—"Despite a shortage of nursing home beds in the Washington area, the District's own facility—D.C. Village—has never opened a new 50-bed cottage because of a shortage of nurses . . . [it] needs 16 more registered nurses." (*Washington Post*, 9/23/67.) . . . "A shortage of nurses has forced