

With the reference to the table of instructors, as I understand it, previously part-time instructors did the work in many of the colleges, medical schools. Is that true?

Dr. SODEMAN. That is true and it is still true in some degree, Mr. Nelsen.

Mr. NELSEN. Now, if the part-time instructors were tabulated, would the comparison be so completely out of line as it is now?

Dr. SODEMAN. This is an estimated guess of mine, but the answer is it would not be so far out of line. Still, we have increases in the number of full-time people doing research, and carrying out other functions that were not carried out by part-time instructors before. Full-time people teaching paramedical personnel, nurses, carrying on continuing education and doing other matters, that there would be some discrepancy in these figures certainly, but they would be clarified and justified by the activities of these people in the total spectrum of education. Today continuing education of a physician is extremely important because of the rapid increase in knowledge, as you know very well.

Mr. NELSEN. Now, in the dollar comparison, of course, in fairness one must take into account the inflationary trend which has driven all costs up. Isn't it true that there has been quite a change?

Dr. SODEMAN. And, it is more remarkable in the health field because the shortage of personnel and because of the the need to go into the marketplace and bid for personnel means that the costs have gone up more remarkably than the average increase for personnel generally across the country.

Mr. NELSEN. With reference to the States determining whether they should increase their enrollments, I think there is an attitude developing in the Congress that if Federal money is to be involved the medical schools should expand their enrollment and thus expand their production. I think this wish should be respected because this is the prime reason why we are trying to help with the total burden.

Dr. SODEMAN. Mr. Nelsen, we believe that the most rapid way to get more physicians is to expand existing schools where it is possible to do so. The process is a shorter process than in developing new schools.

Mr. NELSEN. Getting into the area of research, I have noticed that there seems to exist a nationwide competition as to who can make the best heart transplant. Has there been too much emphasis in these areas and a lack of emphasis on the production of doctors that the country so badly needs?

Dr. SODEMAN. I do not think, sir, this is either/or. I think these things can go along in a parallel way and that the emphasis that has taken place in that kind of process that you are talking about has not been detrimental to the process of trying to develop more physicians.

Mr. NELSEN. Yesterday in the hearing I asked whether there should be a greater emphasis on the practical nurse approach in view of the very obvious shortage of nurses. Many competent young ladies that might have a great aptitude in psychology and concern for a patient, might become a practical nurse of great value in a hospital, even though they could not afford to go on to become an RN. I was informed that there were certain obstacles in the program that might actually deter the hospital schools from proceeding with a more broadly accelerated program. Do you have any comment on that?