

Dr. SODEMAN. We are deeply concerned about the problem of shortage of nurses in all categories of nursing. As I indicated earlier, we are discussing this and doing some analyses of this at the present time. We would prefer, if you would permit us, to supplement this with a written statement later on.

Mr. NELSEN. Please do so.

Dr. SODEMAN. We would be happy to do so.

(The information requested had not been supplied at time of printing.)

Mr. NELSEN. I am not sure if I understood Dr. Lee accurately, but it is my understanding from what he said, that Federal money would be directed to the school only in connection with those who qualify for a student loan. I am not sure if I understood him correctly, but if there is any aspect of the program that needs to be changed to accelerate the training of bedside nurses I would like to know about it. This is one area where a minimum of dollars would result in a maximum of production and I hope that this could be given more consideration.

Dr. SODEMAN. We hope that our statement will cover the whole spectrum, Mr. Nelsen.

Mr. NELSEN. Thank you. No more questions.

Mr. JARMAN. Mr. Skubitz?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Doctor, if I understood you correctly, you said the ratio of doctors to population, was approximately 152 doctors to 100,000 people.

Dr. SODEMAN. That is right. That is what Dr. Ruhe said.

Mr. SKUBITZ. That is one doctor for 666 people. Is this unreasonable?

Dr. SODEMAN. I do not think—

Mr. SKUBITZ. Would that overwork the doctor?

Dr. SODEMAN. Beg pardon?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Would that overwork the doctor?

Dr. SODEMAN. It does overwork them; yes, sir.

Mr. SKUBITZ. 666? Do you think you would get a young graduate to go to a community that just had 666 people in it?

Dr. SODEMAN. There are matters of distribution.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I think now you are putting your finger on the point—distribution of doctors. I think this is one of our big problems. The second point is the field of research. I think we have enough doctors but they are not distributed properly.

Dr. SODEMAN. The physicians doing research and the percentage component of the physicians in this activity is relatively low for the total number of physicians. It is important that this component be maintained because this is the way in which you improve health in the future.

Take the Salk vaccine, for example. If these people were not producing this vaccine, we would have physicians taking care of patients with poliomyelitis which they do not have to take care of now, so in the long run the components of the physicians in research is extremely important and I do not think this percentage is getting out of hand in terms of the past percentages and trends.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Do you have to run the whole gamut of the medical profession in order to be a research man?

Dr. SODEMAN. No, sir.