

I have a very intense conviction that we must produce more doctors and we must produce more nurses if we are to take care of the needs of the American people in the foreseeable future.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Cahill, for a very excellent statement and for some of the thoughts you have developed. And this committee will certainly consider them. I know in line with your thinking about a 4-year college education a great deal is being done in this area which this committee has encouraged because we feel that this is a possible approach, and I think you have stated it very well. We are very grateful to you.

We would like to have the figures that you have gotten, too, from the various colleges.

Mr. CAHILL. I will be happy to do so.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Nelsen?

Mr. NELSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cahill, I remember the statements made on the floor by you and Mrs. Bolton about the lack of bedside nurses, and the fact that so many young ladies would find it impossible to become a registered nurse because of the financial obstacles involved. I have made reference to this in the hearings several times. I think the point is well taken because there are so many things that can be done by such a nurse who is not necessarily an RN. I want to thank you for that observation.

I wish to say, too, that while you have stated that you are a general practitioner and not a specialist in the field of law, I would like to have you plead my case any time, judging from the presentation you have made here today. I think it has been very good and I think it will have a great impact on the action of this committee. I can assure you we are going to study your statement in the record which I know will be helpful.

Mr. CAHILL. Thank you, Mr. Nelsen. May I just say for the moment that the thing that troubles me about the nurses, and I, incidentally, have a daughter who is a nurse, the thing that troubles me, is a lot of these kids do not want to go to college. They want to be nurses. They want to take care of the poor. It seems to me that we are just crazy in this country. We have so many kids that want to do so much and we will not let them. We will not let them. We will not give them the opportunity to go into a hospital to learn patient care. We will let them go in and serve candy, let them do all these things, but we will not let them take care of patients, gain experience through doing, and let them become nurses. This is crazy!

We have got literally hundreds of thousands of good kids and we just will not let them do it because they do not have a college education. It does not make sense to me.

So, I hope you will pursue that, Mr. Nelsen.

Mr. NELSEN. Another point I would like to call attention to is that Art Younger, a former member of this committee, tried to provide incentives and provisions in our training of doctors to encourage them to go to a rural area as a general practitioner. It has not seemed to work but we do encourage it, but it has not worked. Maybe we need to closely examine the whole process.

Mr. CAHILL. Mr. Nelsen, the profit motive has to work with medicine as it does with law and everything else and if we do not make it financially feasible for these young men, reasonably; we cannot expect them to do it.