

Dr. MARTIN. No. I think this is an area that you are going to have to suffer with seriously and I think that the answer is not to train a less well trained physician, but train more helping hands for that physician so he can be more effective.

Mr. ROGERS. How many new colleges does he need; does your association project to fill the gap?

Dr. MARTIN. Dr. Berson?

Dr. BERSON. Mr. Rogers, we do not have a formal projection on that because certainly it is a much larger number than we see an early possibility for getting. Beginning with 10 or 12 years ago, my predecessor in this position, Dr. Ward Darley, and Dr. Wiggins from the AMA called on the presidents of a number of leading universities in this country that did not have medical schools to try to encourage their interest in developing them. I am sorry to say that very few of those particular institutions have done so. We feel that, I might add also, that at about the same time Dr. Vernon Lippard, who was then president of this organization, was interviewed by one of the national magazines and stated his opinion that we needed 25 more new medical schools at that time which was 12 or 13 years ago.

Mr. ROGERS. Would you let us have some projections of this?

Dr. BERSON. Yes, but it cannot be that quantitative because in my own opinion, it is of the order of a dozen and a half or 2 dozen even as quickly as we can get them and I am not at all sure where we can find suitable educational bases and the kind of local responsibility and interest that has led to the development of medical schools so far. But, we will be glad to provide you with some views on that point.

(The following information was subsequently submitted:)

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES,
Washington, D.C., June 24, 1968.

HON. JOHN JARMAN,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare,
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. JARMAN: At the hearings before your subcommittee on the Health Manpower Act of 1968, one of the members of the committee asked me to submit for the record some views about the number of new medical schools that will be needed in the United States. I hope we made it clear to the committee that, while we are happy to share such knowledge and opinions as we have, the Association of American Medical Colleges is not prepared at this time to be entirely quantitative about the number of new medical schools in the United States that should or will be developed within the next decade and a half.

It is my personal opinion that it will be in the public interest if 20 to 25 new medical schools are developed between now and 1980, but I do not think those numbers should be considered as anything more than an educated guess.

It is the view of this Association that the development of new medical schools is highly desirable, provided such new institutions can be strong enough to offer their students educational opportunities in medicine of acceptable quality. We believe that new medical schools can be seen as an answer to 1980's needs for increased educational opportunities for young Americans and for increased numbers of physicians educated in U.S. schools. However, expansion of enrollment in established medical schools offers the only reasonable way to meet the need for more educational opportunity and for more physicians in the fairly early future. As you know, a small number of medical schools are in such desperate financial straits that their very survival is threatened. Providing the financial support those schools need to survive is of great importance and will prevent the loss of educational capacity. All the other medical schools have financial problems and face many demands, but they do have strengths and the potential ability to expand enrollments if they can obtain the additional facilities and financial support they need to do so.