

These are only beginnings, however, and much more must be done. Statistics relative to teaching personnel strikingly document this fact. In the previous academic year, there were 148 full-time positions vacant. Within the next 5 years, new construction and expansion will create 280 new full-time positions. Within this same 5-year period, some 175 full-time teachers will retire. We are thus facing today, a deficit, in terms of full-time faculty, of more than 600 teachers.

The need for extension and expansion of the institutional grant mechanism, then, lies at the heart of any plan for expanding manpower in dentistry and we support its continued existence.

The associations believe that the new formula for allocating the grants is, in general, well-conceived. Because special circumstances in a few institutions, we regard the waiver provision respecting increased enrollment as essential.

Special project grants

Much of the preceding comment regarding institutional grants applies with equal force to the special project grants authorized in the bill. The particular value of the special project grants in regard to dental education is that they can be used to meet exceptional problems. We have in mind their use as "rescue grants" to save established institutions. We are pleased, accordingly, that there is explicit authority to assist schools that are in "serious financial straits," a description that currently fits several dental schools. Again, we would call to the attention of the committee the fact that the continuation of an existing dental school is as important to public welfare as is the construction of a new school.

Scholarship and loan funds

We have always shared with this committee the conviction that the opportunity for professional health education should be available to any young man or woman with the talent to pursue it. A lack of personal financial resources should not be a determining factor. The loan and scholarship funds available in the past few years have moved us closer to realization of this goal. The need for these provisions is, if anything, greater than it has been. The cost of dental education to the student has increased as a result of higher tuition fees and living costs. The average tuition cost per year for private schools, in 1963, for example, was \$1,100 and today it is \$1,476. The average total expense for the 4-year dental education program, exclusive of living costs, was \$7,000 in 1963 and is \$9,300 today. In individual instances, this total can be as high as \$15,000.

The schools have had no difficulty in identifying students needing the scholarship and loan support being offered. In 1967 Annual Survey of Dental Education Institutions shows that 94 percent of the loan and scholarship funds available, both Federal and non-Federal, were awarded. The small amount not awarded was due, almost entirely, to the existence of a few private scholarships or loans that have highly restrictive eligibility requirements.

The provision in H.R. 15757 that would permit schools to transfer up to 20 percent of either the loan or scholarship fund from one to the other is, in our view, desirable. The flexibility will permit the individual school to be that much more responsive to the particular needs of its student body.