

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION STATEMENT ON NUMBER OF DENTISTS NEEDED
THROUGH 1975

In order to maintain the present dentist-to-population ratio through 1975, we will need to have in that year some 111,000 professionally active dentists.

Mr. ROGERS. That would be helpful if you would.

Did you say about 15,000 practicing dentists now, or are these students? How many practicing—

Dr. OSTRANDER. Students. Enrolled in the dental schools.

Mr. ROGERS. How many practicing dentists are there?

Dr. OSTRANDER. Roughly 90,000.

Mr. SULLENS. There are about 97,500 professionally active dentists. Of these, about 7,000 are in Federal Government service, about 1,000 are engaged full time in teaching, and about 500 are employed in state and local public health programs.

Mr. ROGERS. What about the building of new dental schools? What is your feeling on the need there?

Dr. OSTRANDER. Well, I am sure that we feel that the—the association feels strongly, denistry feels strongly, that we do need more schools. I don't think there is any question about that. We have a number of them that are about to begin operation, a number of them that are on the drawing board, so to speak. And we certainly think we need them all.

Mr. ROGERS. Do you think there should be some limit on the project grants? The present limit is \$400,000.

Dr. OSTRANDER. We would hate to see an arbitrary limit, I think, because of the difference in situations in different schools. Some of the schools, of course, are in dire straits, as we have already stated, and I think there should be considerable leeway in the amount of money that can be made available to them under those conditions.

Mr. ROGERS. As I understand it, you feel it is a good idea to interchange these funds in institutional grants, in the projects?

Dr. OSTRANDER. Yes.

Mr. ROGERS. Do you think it is a proper ratio? I understand they plan to devote about 40 percent of those funds to institutional grants and about 60 percent of whatever funds the Congress may authorize to project grants.

Would this be reasonable to you or not?

Dr. OSTRANDER. In my opinion it is a reasonable approach. Would you agree, Mr. Sullens?

Mr. SULLENS. I think it would be difficult to determine that without a little further study. Certainly some reasonable allocation of the special project grants and institutional grants will have to be made by Congress when the appropriations are made. To get back to your earlier question, Mr. Chairman, on the maximum authorization under special project grants we would prefer not to see such a restriction for the reasons Dr. Ostrander indicated. Applications will be considered by the advisory committee which will make decisions on the amounts of the grants in accordance with the regulations, under the law. I can understand the concern about this but there are some very special problems such as the dental schools we mentioned which are on the brink of discontinuing. These schools might well be saved by the absence of hard and fast restrictions. If there could be some excep-