

provision of health services. In closing, may I reiterate our great concern over the shortage of health care personnel. While we recognize the serious fiscal problems facing the country and this Congress, nevertheless, we feel required to urge the committee to authorize sufficient funds to provide the needed health personnel.

Mr. JARMAN. Thank you, Mr. Blair. I think it is a very effective statement. Let me ask you with respect to your own St. Luke's Methodist Hospital in Cedar Rapids, how many students do you have in your school?

Mr. BLAIR. About 200.

Mr. JARMAN. What did it cost you to operate your school in the 1966-67 period?

Mr. BLAIR. Our fiscal year for the school ends on September 30th and for the fiscal year then which ended September 30, 1967, the total costs were \$569,910.

Mr. JARMAN. And how was that financed?

Mr. BLAIR. \$181,000—well, \$168,041 were paid by tuition. There were gifts of some \$13,454, so there were total cash receipts of \$181,495. This offset that portion and left the remainder of \$388,415.

In our conduct of the school, we put emphasis not only on the academic content, the didactic content, but also on the clinical education and in the process of the students learning how to care for patients, they obviously provide care for patients.

In the process of these students providing this care, we make careful estimates as to what we feel it would cost if this same amount of care were provided by other paid personnel. On the basis of these calculations, which I think may be a little on the generous side, but during the same fiscal year the value of these services was estimated to amount to \$332,833. Applying this also, then, as a credit against the cost, this still left a deficit operation of \$56,782.

Mr. JARMAN. What has been the experience of your students in passing the State board examination for nurses?

Mr. BLAIR. We are very happy that our program has seemed to be effective. Iowa, which has the lowest illiteracy rate in the United States, we feel that at the other end it has a very high educational level, has also demonstrated a level among the 50 jurisdictions. It normally ranks in the top 10 or 15 of the 50 jurisdictions in State board results. The school sponsored by the hospital with which I am associated, has characteristically been in the top group of our Iowa schools, of which there are 22. This also places the school at a high level nationally as well. This last year our graduates placed our school first among these 22 schools, including the university schools. We had no failures at all. Ours was one of the three of the 22 schools which had no State board failures at all.

Mr. JARMAN. Mr. Rogers?

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Blair, I thought your statement was excellent. I think many of the suggestions you have made have a great deal of merit and I am sure this committee will consider them very seriously.

Mr. BLAIR. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Is it necessary, do you feel, to give money to every diploma school?