

Mr. BLAIR. I feel so. The record shows that our schools are closing. I made reference to the recommendation, the evaluation of the Surgeon General's committee back several years ago and they are depending, they are looking forward to the diploma programs providing some 15,000 of the approximately 25,000 increase that was recommended. We simply cannot afford to pass up the opportunity that these schools provide.

Mr. ROGERS (presiding). I would agree with you. I think it is very essential to do something for the diploma schools. I was just wondering, for instance, in all of the various programs, if it is necessary to give money to every school. There may be some that are adequately funded. In other words, should there be a showing of need, some criteria set forth, before qualifying for Federal aid?

Mr. BLAIR. I think that the only criteria should be that of accreditation by the State agency, and alternately, the other accrediting agencies that may apply to the associate degree programs of baccalaureate programs where they are approved by the regional association.

Mr. ROGERS. Well, now, suppose you have a school that is not presently accredited and the reason is it has not got enough funds to do what it necessary to become accredited. Does not that school need the money more to bring it up than the one that is already accredited?

Mr. BLAIR. That certainly may be one of the factors. Now, of course, all of the schools are accredited by the State agency and all of the graduates of these schools that take State board examinations take one examination, the one and only examination, and this is an examination as developed under the auspices of the American Nurses Association and it is taken by the graduates of associate degree programs, diploma programs, whether they are 2-year, 3-year programs, or by the baccalaureate programs.

The financial need of the school is eloquently evident as one considers the effects of the accreditation programs, their efforts to increase. The natural effect of this has been to create a gap at one time, and now and then we hear tired references to exploitation of students. This certainly is long gone. There is no student that I am aware of that is exploited. They are substantially financed. Unfortunately, it is by the financially pressured patient who is underwriting this cost in our hospital schools.

Mr. ROGERS. Now, you, I believe, furnished figures saying in 1961 the diploma schools graduated a little over 25,000. Will you reach the 1970 goal, do you think, of 40,000?

Mr. BLAIR. No. We are having a miserable time with this and there has been very little increase over that which the Surgeon General's consultant group measured back then. The problem in part is that because of a variety of problems, many schools have just thrown in the towel and have closed.

Mr. ROGERS. Now, could you let us have, and I know you have given us some background, but specifics as to the number of students, increased number of students, that could be taken in and individually graduated from the diploma schools or hospital schools? What would have to be done? How many would we have to be sure we reached goals that have been set and what financial support would be anticipated? I realize you may not have this now.

Mr. BLAIR. Well, in round figures—

Mr. ROGERS. You could submit it for the record.