

cause I think it is essential for us to do something to train more nurses. Otherwise, we are going to be in a very serious condition, even more so than now, and particularly as you brought out in the increased demand for medical services in this country, which is continuing to grow and will with the medicare program.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. We have heard, Mr. Rogers, from a number of hospitals operating schools that are watching this legislation and if they can get some real help from it, their boards of trustees are inclined to remain in business. If they do not, they are going out of business. So, I think the figure we have given of schools that now plan to close is going to be markedly increased.

Mr. ROGERS. I think that was 74, you said.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. Seventy-four, yes, but lacking some real support there will be a good many more that may likely decide to throw in the sponge. The extent of public criticism over growing hospital costs, you are well aware of.

Mr. ROGERS. I share it.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. You share it. I would just as soon not get into that.

Mr. ROGERS. We will do a separate study on that later.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. Yes; I understand. We will have some good information for you at that time.

Mr. ROGERS. I know. It would be helpful. You always are. Thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMSON. There are a number of hospitals that have never been in the nursing school business, but with financial assurances might well get into the business, too.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes. This is what I think we need to encourage and if your organization would undertake for us to make some contact here and let us have some specifics as soon as possible, I think this could be helpful in drafting this legislation and let us start doing something immediately, because I would agree with you, postponing this another year is simply going to compound the problems. If we could use existing facilities, and like you say, these hospitals have in effect, teaching staffs with their doctors there who could be encouraged, and then we have so many junior colleges, perhaps they can work in conjunction with the junior colleges in setting up programs, too, some that have not gotten into this at all, so I think the possibility of outlining a program that could begin to solve this shortage problem is very real if we will proceed. So, if you could give us some of this information, I think it would be helpful.

Mr. BLAIR. We will certainly get that information to you and to the committee.

(The information follows:)