

Mr. SKUBITZ. You said it costs about \$40,000 to educate a student; is that correct?

Mr. BLAIR. No. I may have created a misimpression. I said the nursing education plan, the facilities, the building, the equipment, the total value of this divided by our number of graduates would mean that the facilities would amount to about \$40,000 per graduate.

Mr. SKUBITZ. The cost of construction equipment, faculty—everything?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes.

Mr. SKUBITZ. How many years are you taking to depreciate this building?

Mr. BLAIR. Fifty.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I think that is all at this moment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BLAIR. I would like just to offer one final comment. I sense from previous witness that our testimony has largely complemented each other. I thought as I listened to it there was an emphasis on preparation of educators and administrators and certainly this is important. The testimony that I have attempted to present has put its emphasis on the preparation of nurses to care for patients. I think that as we have attempted to say, this is an immediately urgent thing. The urgency we have attempted to emphasize by indicating a desirability of an earlier effective date and the employment of all of our facilities, and the one major point of difference in the testimony of the two witnesses has been on this matter of standards for accreditation, and it is our feeling that it is imperative that if this job is going to be done at all, we have got to use all of these facilities, and since the graduates take the same examination, the public is well protected against any incompetence in this way, we would urge this part of our recommendation especially.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much. I noted your difference in testimony on the accrediting and I might say I have had some interest in this problem and plan to continue it because I think it is very important, proper accreditation. Also I am pleased to note the presence of Mr. Lacey Sharp, the very capable colleague of Mr. Williamson, who has been helpful to this committee in getting information over the years.

Thank you very much.

Mr. SKUBITZ. One question. Are some of these schools closing because you cannot get students enrolled in the schools? Are you having any trouble getting students?

Mr. BLAIR. I think that the reasons why schools close certainly include this to some extent. The fact is that there have been a variety of problems that face the sponsor of a hospital school of nursing. One, as has been implied by both mine and the preceding witness' testimony, is the difficulty of acquiring faculty.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Blair, let's get away from your school. Let us talk about the average. How many of the 74 hospitals may be closing because girls are not enrolling in the courses?

Mr. BLAIR. I do not believe that this is a major factor, sir. I think the major reasons are problems of recruitment of faculty, problems of finance, problems of frustration, I think, in connection with some of the requirements for accreditation.