

Mr. ROGERS. Do you have any statements.

Dr. THORP. Yes, they have been submitted to the staff.

Mr. ROGERS. How large are they? Your official statements—

Dr. THORP. The official statement is here in detail.

Mr. ROGERS. We will put that in the record.

Dr. THORP. It was our hope to put the others in the record.

Mr. ROGERS. We will either put them in the record or keep them for our official files.

Dr. THORP. They are short statements. Some of them are essentially like a two-page letter.

Mr. ROGERS. That will be fine, then. Without objection it will be so ordered.

(Dr. Thorp's prepared statement and additional statements referred to, follow:)

STATEMENT OF W. T. S. THORP, D.V.M., CHAIRMAN, JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

I. FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARIANS

The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that there are today approximately 26,000 veterinarians in the United States. This represents a ratio of 13 veterinarians per 100,000 population. However, in 1961 the Senate Committee on Government Operations estimated that to adequately serve the health needs of the United States, a minimum of 17.5 veterinarians per 100,000 population would be needed by 1980.* This would mean 44,100 veterinarians for a population estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census to reach 252 million by 1980.

Although American colleges of veterinary medicine at present are graduating approximately 1,000 veterinarians per year, in the next 12 years approximately 600 veterinarians per year will be lost to the profession due to death or retirement. Consequently unless student enrollment in veterinary colleges increases substantially, only about 31,000 veterinarians will be available in the United States in 1980—more than 13,000 short of the estimated need.

In order to implement the total needed expansion of veterinary education, additional colleges must be established, existing colleges remodeled and expanded, the training of veterinary teachers must be accelerated, new teaching staff must be added and instructional and research programs adequately funded, and additional loan funds and scholarships made available to academically qualified students from lower income families.

To earn his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, a student must complete a minimum of 2 years of pre-veterinary college training in a college of veterinary medicine. The average graduate veterinarian, however, has studied more than 7 years to earn his D.V.M. degree.

In the public interest, passage of the Medical Manpower Act of 1968 is urgently needed. Its enactment would enable the veterinary profession to provide:

A. NECESSARY BUILDING TO INCREASE ENROLLMENT IN EXISTING VETERINARY
MEDICAL COLLEGES

In 1967 at least 3 qualified applicants were turned away for each one accepted in American veterinary colleges. The limited capacity of our veterinary colleges is especially distressing at a time which is suffering from an acute and growing shortage of veterinarians. Lack of funds for the construction of new buildings and building additions poses the principal obstacle to increasing student enrollment at most colleges.

*"Veterinary Medical Science and Human Health," Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate and its Subcommittee on Reorganization and International Organizations, August 10, 1961.