

Curriculum developments in the schools of veterinary medicine have been slow in their response to a changed environment. There is now a real need for substantial studies of the veterinarians' activity and the identification and characterization of trends to enable present curriculums to be wisely remodeled.

Mr. ROGERS. What amendments do you recommend now? You said to include the colleges.

Dr. THORP. To include veterinary medicine in the institutional grants.

Mr. ROGERS. That is your basic recommendation.

Dr. THORP. Yes. I should like to at this time refer to the testimony that Dr. Martin gave yesterday in relation to medicine and dentistry, and I have discussed this with him, relative to the shortage of physicians and dentists. He pointed out in his statement that in the case of medicine and dentistry, this was an area in which there was not an opportunity for students to get in; not the academic opportunity, and so far as they knew, it was not so in other areas.

I will just point out that the same thing is true in veterinary medicine and I will use Minnesota as an example. We have 215 applicants for a class of 60 in the fall of 1968. Many of these are from Minnesota, many of them are from North and South Dakota and Wisconsin.

I would also like to further point out in relation to the testimony yesterday that the cost of educating a veterinarian is essentially the same as the cost of educating a physician and in some cases more.

Mr. ROGERS. How many years are required?

Dr. THORP. Four years beyond the 2 years of preveterinary work. Two years is a minimum. Most of our graduates have about 7 years.

I want to say also that there are many areas in veterinary medicine in which the facilities and equipment are the same as the other medical sciences. As shown in the prepared testimony which you will put in the record, the schools and colleges of veterinary medicine are really a national resource since there are only 18 in this country. There are many well-qualified motivated pre-veterinary students who cannot secure entrance and avail themselves of this educational opportunity.

In closing my brief summary, we appreciate the assistance which the Congress and the administration have provided for the construction of teaching facilities and student loans, inclusion of scholarship grants, special project grants, in the present legislation. These will be most helpful in assisting the colleges to expand and meet the increasing demands for veterinarians as part of the health manpower team. We do, however, wish to be included in the institutional grant.

Thank you very much for letting me appear today. I will be glad to answer some questions after the other gentlemen who are with me—I would like to call on Dr. Pritchard now.

Mr. ROGERS. All right.

STATEMENT OF DR. W. R. PRITCHARD, DEAN, SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, CALIF.

Dr. PRITCHARD. Mr. Chairman, Congressman Skubitz, I would like to make only two points and will be very brief. I have a prepared statement that I would like to have introduced in the record.

Mr. ROGERS. Without objection, it will be made part of the record following your oral presentation.