

For the continued enforcement of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, P.L. 89-544, for the continued enforcement of the other important programs of U.S.D.A.'s Animal Health Division in disease eradication or control, protecting the health of livestock on which we depend for food and other necessary products, well trained veterinarians are absolutely essential. The nation's veterinary schools need and deserve the support which would be provided if they are included in the provisions of the Section on Institutional Grants of H.R. 15757.

We pride ourselves as a nation on our humane attitudes. We pride ourselves on development of preventives and cures of disease and injury. For the continuing development and the support of these ideals and goals, good men trained in the veterinary medical discipline must graduate in increasing numbers from the eighteen colleges which give the D.V.M. degree.

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute I respectfully urge the distinguished members of this committee to amend H.R. 15757 to include veterinary colleges before recommending its passage by the full House of Representatives.

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STATEMENT OF FRED C. DAVISON, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The Role of Veterinary Education in Agriculture is of traditional and obvious importance because of the necessity of controlling and eliminating diseases of animals producing food for man. However, an increasing and even greater role for veterinary education is training new graduates to function as an independent group of scientists with a vital and legitimate role in biomedical research and public health programs. The research contribution of veterinary scientists to basic health sciences by use of experimental animals is of tremendous benefit in solving problems afflicting and affecting the health of man. The study of comparative medicine by veterinary biomedical scientists has provided many solutions to disease problems in man. All indications point to the increased use of experimental animals for research to solve problems of aging, cancer, heart disease and other fatal diseases that shorten or debilitate the life of man.

In addition to vastly increased activities of veterinarians in biomedical research the recent passage of regulations for meat and poultry inspection to protect the consumer requires an increase in the number of veterinarians.

The increased human need for animal protein food stuff in the world also calls for more veterinarians to control animal diseases. The World Food and Agricultural Organization estimates that a 50 percent reduction of losses from animal diseases in the developing countries is a realistic goal and that it would result in a 25 percent increase in animal protein production. This reduction in animal losses would result principally from an increased supply of veterinarians educated to conduct biomedical investigations to control diseases causing deaths in animals and likewise in man when transmissible.

Approximately one-half of the veterinarians in the USA are engaged in practice. The majority of the others are engaged in teaching and research or in supporting positions such as laboratory animal medicine. The present occupations of veterinarians in the USA are as follows: 7 percent in large animal practice, 19 percent in small animal practice, and 31 percent in mixed practice for a total of 57 percent of the veterinarians in the USA who are conducting practice. The remaining 43 percent are engaged in teaching, research, consumer regulatory work for the government, industry and in specialties such as laboratory animal medicine. The latter category is a prominent example of a new activity for which insufficient veterinarians have been educated. The demand for veterinarians with special qualifications in laboratory animal medicine to support programs in biomedical research has appeared suddenly and is unfulfilled. A recent survey by the National Academy of Science identified about 2000 biomedical research laboratories in the USA, which housed experimental animals and needed the services of a veterinarian. At present only 106 veterinarians hold board certification from the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

The entire output of veterinarians graduated from all the schools in the US this year would not meet the existing need for veterinarians in laboratory animal medicine, which is only one of the many specialties in biomedical research for which veterinarians are in great demand.

The need for veterinarians considerably exceeds the productive capacity of the present educational system. A long range forecast indicates that 40,000 veterinarians will be needed by 1980. This figure is 12,000 in excess of what our present veterinary colleges can provide during that period of time. Obviously the addi-