

[Nurse Training]



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 2, 1962

Dear Jack:

Some time ago you asked for background material on the United States Cadet Nurse Corps. Enclosed is a "rare" copy of a Public Health Service publication describing the history of the Corps.

As you know, Jack, there are a number of proposals dealing with nurse training programs, now pending in Congress. The Administration has not backed any single bill, but instead has set up a consultant group on nursing under the Surgeon General. This group is conducting a comprehensive study covering the entire field of nursing, and their report should be forthcoming sometime this year. Enclosed is a copy of the press release explaining the make-up and purpose of the consultant group.

You asked for my comments on the merits of re-establishing the Cadet Nurse Corps. I think we should wait for the consultant group to publish its findings, Jack, and then we will all be on firm ground in considering proposals to alleviate the severe shortage of nurses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerome N. Sonosky", is written over the typed name.

Jerome N. Sonosky
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Secretary

Mr. John J. Flynn
Legislative Assistant to
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
1311 New Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosures

[* Transferred to Humphrey Book
Collection

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Washington 25, D.C.

FOR RELEASE

Secretary Abraham Ribicoff told the Surgeon General's Consultant Group on Nursing, meeting in Washington June 12 and 13, that the nurse is the "magic ingredient" in health services.

"If we are expanding in every field of health and medicine, we will be self-defeating if we do not do something about the shortage in nursing," he said.

In support of this point, the Secretary's Special Assistant for Health and Medical Affairs, Boisfeuillet Jones, said that in the past several years the "quite evident shortage became a national problem which has required national attention." He emphasized that President Kennedy hopes the Group will outline problems in nursing and the best ways of handling them, and, when necessary, make legislative proposals for their solution.

The Group was appointed by Surgeon General Luther L. Terry to further the administration's intention, stated by the President in his February 9 health message, of relieving the nursing shortage and of developing "for nursing, as we have for medicine and dentistry, a formulation of needs and training requirements" for submission to Congress this year. Dr. Alvin C. Eurich, Vice-President of The Fund for Advancement of Education, Ford Foundation, is Chairman. Among the 21 members appointed to serve with him are nurses, physicians, hospital administrators, educators, and social scientists.

Dr. Terry, in his charge to the Group, said that "of all the Federal committees over the recent years, none has had such a complicated job." He asked for a report, by the end of 1961, containing recommendations on what the Federal government should do to improve nursing services.

As a preliminary step, the Group proposes to explore the social, economic, and scientific developments which have accelerated demands on nursing, conditions of supply and demand in the various nursing fields, and types of programs which prepare personnel for careers in nursing. It is expected to

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consider specific problems encountered in the practice of nursing which are not faced in the practice of other professions, the need for expansion of rehabilitation services and of programs for the care of the sick at home, and the costs of nursing education, especially for leadership posts. A most important concern is the part the Federal government should take in the support of nursing education.

As a result of the initial discussions, a steering committee has been designated, consisting of Dr. Eurich; Marion Sheahan, National League for Nursing; Herbert Longenecker, Tulane University; Robert Merton, Columbia University; Judith G. Whitaker, American Nurses' Association; Eleanor Lambertsen, American Hospital Association; and Sister Virginia Kingsbury, Western Provinces of Daughters of Charity.

Several Subcommittees have also been appointed, each to be guided in its deliberations by one member of the steering committee. The subcommittees will explore means of measuring the adequacy of nursing service other than by means of nurse-population ratios; the effect of nursing school accreditation policies on nurse supply; graduate education for research and for nursing administration, supervision, and teaching; and inservice education and the need for a master plan for meeting nursing needs.

Mrs. Apollonia O. Adams, of the Division of Nursing, is serving as Chief of Staff for the Group. Further meetings are scheduled for September 18-19 and November 20-21.

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