

and alternative mechanisms for the provision of adequate medical service should be developed." No specific programs are mentioned.

As to the second priority, the report suggests nothing to increase physicians' productivity. But, several aspects of federal and state medical assistance programs (Medicare and Medicaid) are listed as detrimental to productivity. These include provisions in the program making it economically unfeasible for the doctor to delegate responsibilities to others—especially interns, residents, and office assistants; governmental antagonism toward those physicians who allegedly earn too much money from such programs; low compensation; excessive paper work; and adverse publicity because of payments received.

In commenting on the third priority the report mentions neither an increase in medical schools nor an increase in financial support to medical students. It does, however, suggest legal reforms to reduce the risk of malpractice suits and "a positive program of public relations dedicated to making the clinical practice of medicine attractive to oncoming generations of young Americans [which] would be more productive than a campaign to picture physicians as entrepreneurs requiring regimentation and control"—the implication being that certain politicians are currently conducting the latter type of campaign.

Many people, upon receiving their doctor's bill, would hardly view him as "the conservator of their expenditures." The report, however, suggests that, for the physician to maintain such a role, a system of peer review should be instigated to guard against excessive charges and that it would not be helpful "to dilute it with lip service to consumer representation."

The report concludes with the statement, typical of AMA arguments over the past several decades, that "when a physician is salaried, or otherwise divorced from the fee-for-service method of compensation, he is insulated from a specific interest in how his services or his authorizations for service have impact upon the economics of medical care."

Among other actions taken at the Boston meeting, the AMA's 224-member House of Delegates

► Called for the establishment of a new Federal Department of Health, whose chief officer would be a physician with cabinet rank.

► Expressed AMA opposition to federally controlled compulsory national health service programs such as proposed in a bill introduced in the current session of Congress by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

► Voted to oppose the legalization of marihuana. (Curiously, the AMA was one of the few organizations in the country to oppose the legislation which first outlawed marihuana in 1937.)

► Substituted a resolution calling for more stringent controls over advertising of proprietary drugs with one calling for more voluntary controls.

► Defeated an attempt by the New Jersey delegation to reestablish a strong AMA stand against abortion.

► Reiterated AMA opposition to chiropractic medicine as an "unscientific cult" and opposed any federal payments to chiropractors.—R.J.B.

RECENT DEATHS

E. J. Braulick, 83; former president, Wartburg College; 26 September.

Daniel J. Carr, 77; professor emeritus of chemistry, Seton Hill College; 18 October.

William H. Chandler, 92; former professor of horticulture, University of California, Los Angeles; 28 October.

Alfred H. Conrad, 46; professor of economics, City College, City University of New York; 17 October.

Harold W. K. Dargeon, 73; clinical professor emeritus of pediatrics, Cornell University Medical College; 29 October.

Marvin W. DeJonge, 64; professor of mathematics, Purdue University; 13 October.

Gilbert E. Doan, 73; former head, metallurgy department, Lehigh University; 27 October.

Edward R. Durgin, 70; former dean of students, Brown University; 9 November.

H. Walter Evans, 80; professor emeritus of osteopathy, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; 9 November.

Frederick Geist, 85; former professor of anatomy, University of Wisconsin; 18 October.

George O. Gey, 71; director, cancer research laboratory, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and associate professor emeritus of surgery, Johns Hopkins University; 9 November.

Netta E. Gray, 58; instructor of botany, Agnes Scott College; 24 August.

Jesse E. Hobson, 59; former director, Stanford Research Institute; 5 November.

Joseph F. Hodgson, 41; research soil scientist, U.S. Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory, Cornell University; 5 October.

Ruth B. Howland, 83; professor emeritus of biology, Sweet Briar College; 24 October.

Otto Kress, 86; first technical director, The Institute of Paper Chemistry; 7 October.

Alexander Levitt, 67; former president, New York State Osteopathic Society; 27 October.

Winston W. Little, 78; former dean, University College, University of Florida; 15 November.

Frederic P. Lord, 94; former professor of anatomy, Dartmouth College; 1 November.

Robert S. Lynd, 78; professor emeritus of sociology, Columbia University; 1 November.

Ralph H. Major, 86; professor emeritus of medicine and the history of medicine, University of Kansas; 15 October.

Robert J. Masters, 76; former professor of ophthalmology, Indiana University; 30 October.

Herman W. Ostrum, 77; professor emeritus of radiology, University of Pennsylvania; 22 October.

Judson A. Rudd, 67; president emeritus, Bryan College; 6 October.

Padubidri S. Sarma, 52; professor of biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, India; 8 September.

Ben B. Seligman, 57; professor of economics, University of Massachusetts; 23 October.

Thomas J. C. Smyth, 51; dean of students, University of North Carolina, Greensboro; 10 November.

Norman H. Stewart, 85; professor emeritus of zoology, Bucknell University; 16 October.

Thomas S. Taylor, 87; retired physicist, Fairleigh Dickinson University; 9 September.

Raymond G. Walters, 85; former president, University of Cincinnati; 25 October.

Chavus M. Womack, Jr., 37; professor of chemistry, Texas Southern University; 1 November.

Quincy Wright, 79; professor emeritus of political science, University of Chicago and University of Virginia; 17 October.

Elizabeth R. Zetzel, 63; associate clinical professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; 22 November.