

Feb. 28, 1966

# AMA Supports Health Program

AMA  
Council  
Outstand Health

The president-elect of the American Medical Association told Congress the Administration's international health legislation will help meet "the great need that exists throughout many areas of the world for the amelioration of human suffering caused by disease."

Testifying before the House Commerce Committee, Charles L. Hudson, MD, said that the nation's medical profession "has long been in accord" with the legislation's humanitarian goal.

"There can be no disagreement that there exists an urgent need for spreading available medical knowledge to many areas of the world in order to upgrade their quality of medical care," Dr. Hudson said. "Within our resources to do so, our country should contribute its part to accomplish this goal."

**Grants to Schools:** "As we understand it," he continued, "HR 12453 would provide grants to schools of health to train professional health personnel to work in international health and would also augment the ranks of health personnel in the Public Health Service for work in foreign countries. Exporting knowledge to needed areas of the world through increased numbers of health personnel trained in this country would be a significant step in making modern medicine available to developing regions around the world.

"This committee is aware that the excellence of medical education in the United States is not surpassed anywhere in the world. This nation has become the medical training center



# AMA Helps Physicians Serve Overseas

Two decades ago, the greatest number of American physicians ever assembled overseas was streaming home after World War II. Now, perhaps more American doctors than ever before are thinking of doing just the opposite—going overseas.

Those who feel that they can devote the time are going for various reasons and for periods from a few months to years. Much of the medical treatment and training they are providing is in many of the world's developing nations.

**350 Inquiries:** The first year of a formal international placement assistance program at the American Medical Association, 1963, saw more than 300 inquiries from interested persons. For 1965, the total is expected to be about 350 inquiries.

Additionally, several hundred phy-

sicians annually make direct contact with the nation or agency seeking professional assistance.

At mid-1965, AMA records had 1,824 physicians in "temporary foreign" classification, and the total as 1966 begins is believed to be 2,000 or more.

**Information Compiled:** When letters or visitors with information about openings abroad come to the American Medical Association, its Physicians' Placement Service gathers information about locale, proposed responsibilities for the physician, prevalent diseases, available medical equipment, tour of duty, salary, transportation costs, housing, vacation and other details.

Physicians who inquire about openings are asked about countries preferred, how long they will be available, their specialty, language capa-

bilities, marital status and other useful background.

Physicians' Placement Service presently is building up its file of physicians interested in going abroad. With data from the "interested physicians" file and that collected from nations and agencies seeking American doctors, AMA's clearinghouse tries to put the MD and those who want his services in touch with each other.

**Church Programs:** Of the 2,000 or so U.S. physicians serving abroad at the start of 1966, an estimated 700 are taking part in the overseas efforts of Protestant denominations, and 50 or more in Roman Catholic medical programs. Others are serving with U.S. government agencies, in non-sectarian programs, at medical schools, or other treatment-training efforts.

The figure of approximately 2,000 does not include physicians in uniform caring for American military people and dependents overseas.

AMA's placement program cooperates with the principal denominational medical missionary agencies and various privately supported voluntary medical organizations. These are involved in 600 to 700 health projects, including about 350 hospitals in 113 countries.

**Agencies Cooperate:** Placement also works with U.S. government agencies, foreign governments, industrial corporations, steamship lines and medical or paramedical schools.

Physicians' Placement Service says, "The greatest need for long and short-term physician-volunteers is in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The demand not only is for general practitioners, but also for certain specialists."

## Pollution Meeting Opens March 2

Possible interrelationships of air pollution, respiratory diseases, smoking, aging, genetics and other factors will be explored March 2-4 at the AMA's first Air Pollution Conference at Los Angeles.

gram chairman.

While this is the first AMA-sponsored air pollution conference, it is the eighth in a series formerly sponsored by the California Health Dept. Its theme is "The Air Pollution—Health Relationship as Complex Interaction Between Biological Systems