

Appalachia. But that assumption would be wrong. The truth is that, despite much progress in recent years, too many sections of our country, including our cities, face shortages of health personnel. Many do not have enough of the right kinds of personnel. And others face financial obstacles to health care.

"I believe that now the nation has come to recognize that the adequacy of our health manpower supply goes beyond having some perfect absolute quantity of physicians, nurses or other health professionals. We must now turn to the more difficult problems of improving the distribution of health personnel and the kinds of care they are providing to assure reasonable cost of the care being provided and to provide new training directions to meet the needs ahead. Your organization has been a pioneer in addressing these issues.

"We live in a world of finite resources, and we must weigh carefully—especially in the economy of today—the benefits of programs against their costs. Our proposed support for nursing education and for the growing role of the nurse practitioner stems from more than the humanitarian objective of providing care for patients. It must be tied also to the ability of the nurse practitioner to make our health personnel more productive and accessible to those who have trouble getting care.

"Expanded primary care roles for nurses are not new—and they become even less new the closer we come to your 50th anniversary. Nurse-midwives, like yours, have long been serving outlying rural areas. And visiting nurses are a traditional service in overpopulated, physician-poor urban areas. However, the concept of preparing specialized nurse practitioners capable of decisive action as part of an extended health care team is relatively new. This concept supports our objectives of improved distribution and productivity of health personnel and helps to provide quality health care at reasonable cost. And we are encouraging more of it."

The Secretary discussed some of the programs which are currently being funded by HEW to help meet the need for more nurses trained in the provision of primary care. He then went on to say, in conclusion:

"The President has asked every American to enlist personally in the fight against inflation. And he has sketched out how people, in their every-day living habits, can help to win that fight by cutting out wasteful practices.

"That idea must be carried into our professional thinking and practices as well. We need to develop more effective ways to work more productively—and that is especially true in the health care field.

"The health care field has its historical roots in a spirit of caring. And that is an excellent legacy. Now it is time to recognize that there is nothing in the least contradictory between that tradition and the need to use limited resources with maximum effectiveness.

"Given a finite amount of resources, we must look to careful planning, a coordinated effort and commitment to greater effectiveness. Your organization has been doing this for nearly a half century.

"You recognize—more than most—that vision, initiative and