

# Toledo's Hospitals Make A 'Bargain' Medical School Possible

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## Committee Argues College Would Cost State Only \$5 Million

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COLUMBUS, Aug. 21—In the attempt to re-establish a medical college in Toledo—which has been without one since 1914—the taxpayers of Ohio are being offered a \$40,000,000 bargain.

That, it is hoped, will be a major selling point when the 101st Ohio General Assembly is asked next January to appropriate \$5,000,000 for a



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basic science building upon which reinstatement of the medical college, as a part of the University of Toledo, hinges.

A committee headed by Dr. Edward J. McCormick of Toledo, former president of the American Medical Association, and including representatives of the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County, the board of Lucas County Commissioners, the Toledo City Council and the University of Toledo, recently through a delegation broached the unique proposal to Gov. Frank L. Lausche.

Their message was to the effect the college could be opened and maintained at a total cost to the state of only \$5,000,000.

Some \$40,000,000 worth of existing hospital facilities in Toledo, forming the nucleus of the suggested medical center-medical school, will be turned over to the University of Toledo if the state will put up the basic science building. The structure would also double as a residence for students, interns and staff members of the medical college.

Governor Lausche, who frequently has decried the lack of doctors in the state and facilities for turning out more, was intrigued by the boldness of the idea, but was officially cautiously noncommittal.

THE GOVERNOR has indicated, privately, his belief that one of Lucas County's seven state legislators should "spearhead" a bill to secure the \$5,000,000 appropriation.

Simply because of his record in protesting that an inadequate number of doctors in Ohio sets their professional services at a high cost, Governor Lausche is reelected is likely to support a TU medical college appropriation.

His GOP opponent, state auditor James A. Rhodes, has shown interest in the Toledo plan and has promised his support if he is Ohio's next governor.

Opposition is possible, how-

ever, from the three existing Ohio medical schools. They are located at Ohio State University, Western Reserve University and the University of Cincinnati. They may protest that their combined graduating classes of 300 MDs a year are adequate. If it appears the basic science building is to be authorized by the General Assembly, the three may rush in with demands for funds to increase their own physical plants.

Their prominence in the field of medical education may well be shadowed by that of the University of Toledo if the basic science building can be obtained.

The Toledo committee believes the proposed school with its unique features and advantages may become a medical center of national stature.

FOLLOWING the personal call upon the governor, the Committee on Re-establishment of the University of Toledo Medical College submitted to him its proposal, in writing.

The plan envisages the turning over to the university by the county of Maumee Valley Hospital, and by the city of Toledo of Contagious Disease Hospital; the nearby County Home with its fine geriatrics wing would provide clinical instruction, as would adjacent William Roehne Memorial Hospital.

Toledo State Hospital, also nearby, would provide opportunities for psychiatric as well

as medical training. All but the mental hospital are located on 82.3 acres of county-owned land upon which the basic science building would also be situated.

Toledo's other seven hospitals also would be invited to affiliate with the medical center, the brochure sent the governor reported.

The committee advised him that probably nowhere else in the country exists such a medical center—and with the expenditure of only \$5,000,000.

A new medical college even of average size would cost between 30 and 50 million dollars, the committee reminded the governor.

ENROLLMENT in the Toledo medical school, it is estimated, would be 200 with an annual graduating class of 50 doctors. It is hoped many would remain in Ohio to alleviate the shortage of physicians. Of 500 members of the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County, for example, about one-third are TU graduates or alumni of one of its pre-medical programs. A number of doctors now in practice in Toledo have degrees from Toledo Medical College which was in existence between 1828 and 1914, and which was affiliated with the University of Toledo.

TMC closed in 1914 during the reorganization of medical education which followed a nationwide survey.

These arguments for reopening a medical school in northwestern Ohio are advanced by the committee:

Three of the state's four population centers are served by medical schools; only the northwestern section is without such facilities. As a result, many area residents look to Ann Arbor and Detroit for specialized medical service. Nationally, of 37 cities of Toledo's size or larger, only two—San Diego and San Antonio—are without medical colleges in their vicinity.

Medical colleges have more applicants than they can accommodate. Statistics indicate medical college capacity will have to double to accommodate applicants for a medical education from the generation already born. Yet, leaders in the field believe, the three existing Ohio medical colleges are near, or exceeding, the size for most effective instruction.

Tuition at the three medical schools range from \$495 at OSU to \$800 at Western Reserve University, exclusive of living costs. Many young people of northwestern Ohio now unable to afford medical education might be able to take up the study of medicine if they could live at home while attending classes at a nearby school.