

State Aid Major Factor In Medical School Plans

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Consultant For Governor's Commission Issues Another Preliminary Report

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COLUMBUS, Oct. 26—All Ohio communities campaigning for a new medical school are counting on substantial outside financial help, probably from the state, to build one, a consultant for Governor DiSalle's Interim Commission on Higher Education reported yesterday.

Dr. John W. Patterson, dean of the Vanderbilt University college of medicine, made another preliminary report to the commission on the study of Ohio medical school needs. He has been conducting the survey since February.

He hopes to have a written report ready by the end of the year if he receives data from Dayton and Akron promised to him by officials of those cities within the next few weeks. He already has reviewed the report on a medical school for Toledo compiled for a Toledo committee by Dr. William R. Willard, dean of the University of Kentucky medical school.

Report Called Good

Dr. Patterson termed the Willard report a good one and quoted extensively from it during the commission meeting.

He declined to comment at this time on the possibility of a medical school for Toledo, noting that "Toledo would be in a much stronger position if a good program on graduate education is developed at the University of Toledo."

The TU graduate program, he said, still is in its embryo stage.

Visited Toledo

He also noted the lack of well-developed graduate programs in Akron and Dayton. The only centers of graduate education in Ohio are Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland, all of which have existing medical schools, he said.

Dr. Patterson has visited Toledo, Dayton, Akron, Cleveland, and Miami, Bowling Green, Kent State and Ohio Universities in recent months.

In an earlier report he expressed the opinion that medical schools will have to be built in Ohio and existing facilities at Ohio State University, Western Reserve University and University of Cincinnati expanded.

His problem now is one of recommending a site or sites and he said yesterday it may be advisable to call in additional technical help before such a recommendation is made.

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Dr. John C. Baker, commission chairman, said the commission will have to be polled later on that question since only three of the nine members were present for yesterday's meeting.

In answer to a question from Dr. Baker on the availability of local financial resources for new medical schools, Dr. Patterson said all the communities he has visited are counting on substantial help from outside sources. The principal source

would be the state, he suggested.

Asked how much it would cost, Dr. Patterson said Dr. Willard's estimate of \$17 to \$24 million for one in Toledo, including a hospital to be affiliated with the school, is a pretty good estimate.

He added that this cost could be reduced if there is a tax-supported hospital available which could be converted into a university hospital.

Replying to other questions, Dr. Patterson noted that none of the state university presidents at Bowling Green, Kent State, Miami and Ohio University are "campaigning for a medical school for their institutions although they say they would take the responsibility if the state delegated it to them."

All of them are either in small towns, where the availability of patients for a university hospital would be limited, or are in stages of transition which might affect their graduate education programs, he added.

"It may prove impossible to come up with a clear black or white recommendation," warned. One area's drawbacks may have to be weighed carefully against the disadvantages of another, he said.

Commission Deplores Lack Of Appropriation

Commission members voiced concern about the fact that the Legislature failed to appropriate any money for the commission operating expenses or future research studies on problems of higher education in Ohio.

The 1959 legislature had appropriated \$40,000, but the 1961 legislature failed to reappropriate it. All that is left, James H. Maloon, state finance director said, is \$7,500 for Dr. Patterson's study.

Dr. Baker indicated that the commission may hold a meeting before the Nov. 14 legislative session to try to persuade the legislators to come up with some funds.