



*moratorium  
Appressed*

ISSUE: Establishment of regional and multi-regional resources

A. Television production and network facilities

The Division Staff offers the following background and recommendations in this regard:

The first set of planning grant applications received by the Division described extensive interregional cooperation had not been foreseen in the drafting of the original legislation. In addition, these planning grants, as well as expert consultants to the Division, pointed out the need of all Regions for certain resources and activities best developed on "an interregional basis, e.g. training of continuing education and other leadership staff, preparation of teaching materials, standardization of data collection, refinement of evaluation procedures."

The Surgeon General's Report to the President and Congress spoke to this point by stating "a situation has been identified with respect to certain specialized needs common to all or a number of Regions. The support of a limited number of facilities and programs are needed to develop techniques and prepare personnel to facilitate the work of individual Regional Medical Programs. The support of such activities in agencies that can serve a number of Regions will avoid unnecessary delay and duplication of effort and make the best use of specialized facilities."

This point led to the enactment of Section 910 - "funds appropriated under this title shall also be available for grants to any public or nonprofit private agency or institution for services needed by or which will be of substantial use to, any two or more Regional Medical Programs."

Several Regions have given study to the network problems through Task Forces, etc. For example, the Michigan Program has analyzed network needs and resources, identified compatibility and interchangeability problems and decided on a course of action. Colorado-Wyoming Program is taking the initiative in bringing together communication technology specialists from all Regional Medical Programs in May to determine how more effective use can be made of technology and identifying the problems inherent in its use.

The Lister Hill Biomedical Communications Center and the Extramural Program of the National Library of Medicine are two other foci of "network" type activities closely related to Regional Medical Programs interests. Discussions are currently underway as to how such relationships can be developed and implemented for the Programs.

RECOMMENDATION: Council recommends that all new operational projects requesting major investments or funds for equipment and activities in television be thoroughly studied by Division staff and expert consultants for consideration for funding under the new authority for Multi-program Services provided under Section 910. It further recommends that applications for continuation and renewal of previously funded major television activities be reviewed by the same group of expert consultants on the basis of the progress being made in the applicant Region toward its television objectives, and how those activities might be related or expanded to a Multi-program Service.

February 1969