

Project and thereby had seen at firsthand the great medical potential of nuclear energy joined the Commission to help develop the new tools. It is noteworthy that the first shipment of a radioisotope from the atomic energy project, in August 1946, went to a cancer clinic in St. Louis, Mo., for private medical research.

Since that time the Atomic Energy Commission has carried on major efforts on four fronts to advance the cause of nuclear medicine. First, it produces and distributes radioactive isotopes useful in medical research, diagnosis, and therapy. Second, it provides opportunities for medical personnel to receive training in the techniques of using radioisotopes safely and efficiently. Third, it operates major research facilities in the medical field that require specialized equipment and staff not ordinarily found in existing medical centers. Finally, it supports promising research projects through contracts with medical schools, universities, hospitals, and other research organizations.

Although the AEC continues to play an important role in the medical field, I should point out that within recent years it has turned over much of its activity involving the production and distribution of medical radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals to private enterprise and nongovernment institutions.

With all this as general background, let me review for you some of the accomplishments of this big and diverse field today. I know that a number of you in this audience are men and women of the business world who fortunately have taken a great interest in your community medical care and the administration of your fine hospital center, so I will begin by relating a few businesslike statistics concerning the growth of nuclear medicine.

The entire field of nuclear medicine—the use of radioisotopes and sophisticated scanners, cameras, and counters for diagnosis, treatment, and medical research; the application of teletherapy and brachytherapy—all this is growing at a remarkable rate. When we consider that nuclear medicine was in its infancy in the 1950's, its growth rate is all the more remarkable.

Reports of recent years offer some interesting information related to this growth. For example, under AEC and AEC-agreement state licenses, there are more than 4,300 U.S. hospitals using nuclear medicine, and an average of 100 new nuclear facilities are being added each year. In addition, more than 2,200 physicians in private practice