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## INTRODUCTION

The idea for a conference focusing on the place of the baccalaureate graduate in the delivery of health services originated in Western Region during preparation of a response to the Task Force Reports of the Cost of Health Services in Canada in 1970, for that year's national Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing meeting. As planning for the Conference went forward, the programs of the annual meetings of 1971 and 1972 looked at the functioning of the baccalaureate graduate in first employment positions, as seen by both the graduate and the employer, and the ideas of consumers of health services on the role the nurse does and could play in delivery of care. These programs provided the membership with

a background to discuss the Conference theme: "Health Services Today — And In The Future."

It was felt by the Planning Committee to be essential that nurse educators, nurse administrators, and nurse consultants have an opportunity to meet together to define the issues facing nursing today, and to formulate some plan of action to deal with them. To this end, the western provincial nursing associations were invited to sponsor delegates from service agencies, and federal government nursing consultants were invited to participate. To obtain viewpoints from other regions, all member Schools of C.A.U.S.N. were invited to send delegates, and representation was indeed achieved from all regions of Canada. Students at the undergraduate and graduate level from three of the western schools also attended, and their contribution was seen in the presentation of the groups.

Recognition should be given at this time to Miss Peggy Anne Field, Past-President of Western Region, and Miss Pauline Kot, past Secretary-Treasurer, for their great efforts in developing the original plan for the scope and funding of the Conference. That foundation enabled the Planning Committee, representative of all Western Region universities, to bring their efforts to what we saw as a most fruitful conclusion. Sincere thanks also to Dr. Helen Glass, Conference director, who brought together three stimulating, provocative thinkers for the program. The Western Region is able to pay the cost of printing this issue of *Nursing Papers* due to the generosity of the speakers in returning their honoraria.

And, lastly, thanks to all those who came, shared ideas, disagreed, agreed, and presented the total group with such a variety of approaches for consideration. The energy and enthusiasm with which the delegates approached discussion of the issues they had themselves defined, was most gratifying. It is hoped that those reading the following articles will find ideas for consideration wherever they may be meeting to discuss nursing and its place in the delivery of health care.

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