

A. I would say realistically there may be not a cutdown, but an expansion. Because when we run into problems with the current flow of revenue, sometimes where matters are critical — and I point to the need for construction of new mental facilities so that the crowding in places like Rosewood can be alleviated — it's necessary to go ahead with these things, regardless of our temporary financial bind. In some cases we may utilize capital money if it's possible to do what we have to do even though we don't have the operating revenue. Now this doesn't mean, I want to assure you, that I am going to pervert to everyday expense the use of capital improvement money. But I don't think it would slow down capital improvements. I think it may tend to speed them up.

Q. Governor, are you convinced that the conditions in mental hospitals have reached the stage that you are going to have to go beyond what you had planned to do?

A. Well, I can tell you this much. The situation in our mental hospitals has been greatly improved in the past four or five years. There isn't any question about that. All of the people are agreed that are experts in this area. But this does not mean that we have by any measure approached the quality of care that is necessary. It's just like with everything else where conditions do improve, they improve enough to encourage you into thinking that they should improve more. And that's what, of course, we need to do — improve them even more than they have been improved. I am not satisfied with them. I told a meeting I had this morning with Dr. Solomon, the chairman of the Advisory Council, and with Dr. Carson, the acting head of Mental Health, and other State professionals that I wanted them to sit down and do everything they could possibly do to provide me with a program that was going to make certain that we provided the level of mental care in this State that's necessary to remove some of the abuses, the callous disregard of the needs of individuals that I find in some cases takes place here. I am worried about this situation and we're going to do something about it. Dr. Solomon is going to continue to meet with these people and propose to me within the week an overall revision in the five-year planning for mental hospitals.

Q. Would that mean that the five-year planning will be cut down?

A. It will mean — I am pretty sure that certain things are going to be accelerated. Yes.