

## A MAINE MEDICAL SCHOOL

Trustees of the University of Maine have approved a plan to create a State of Maine Medical School. With rising health costs and physical health a real concern to everyone everywhere, a school to train doctors would seem to be an obvious and well intentioned policy for the State. The University system would be the logical and appropriate state institution to develop and fund a medical school for the State.

Doctors in Maine are in short supply and have been for some time. The medical profession is a highly paid one and there should not be any shortage of candidates to fill available class facilities. What the Trustees have done is approved a scheme that sounds realistic, appears to be necessary and one that would supposedly benefit health care for Maine people.

That is the way it would appear. Unfortunately that is only the appearance of things and not the reality. While a medical school would be a desirable addition to the State such a medical facility is beyond the resources of the State's ability to afford. Even with Federal money, the costs will be staggering and the real benefits will be less than the efforts put into it.

By the University's own admission 60 percent of the graduates would leave Maine to work elsewhere. There is no reason to believe that doctors would stay here either. The costs to Maine taxpayers to retain perhaps 40 percent of the doctors trained here should prohibit consideration of the plan. The Trustees recently voted to proceed. Close and reasoned study of the planned medical school should convince the Trustees that Maine cannot support its own State medical school. Co-operation with another state or states would make a lot more sense and save an awful lot of dollars.