

Ford Taps Busse For National Panel

President Ford has named Dr. Ewald W. Busse to a six-member biomedical research commission to study research financing and priorities for research in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

The White House panel was created by Congress following discontent within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over research funding and the executive branch's firing of the last two NIH directors.

The commission will look into all biomedical and behavioral research funding within HEW, of which NIH is a part, but with special emphasis on what Busse called "the behavioral side of NIH."

This will include agencies dealing in the behavioral sciences, such as the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, of which the National Institute of Mental Health is a component.

The panel was sworn in by Vice President Rockefeller and Busse said a report from the commission to the President is expected in about 15 months.

Busse is associate provost and director of medical and allied health education. For 20 years he was chairman of

the Department of Psychiatry and he is a past president of the American Psychiatric Association.

One of the country's leading authorities on aging and care of the elderly, Busse established Duke's Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development in 1957 and headed it until 1970.

Because of his background in problems involving the aged, Busse was called on to speak at the President's Economic Summit Conference in Washington last fall.

The new biomedical research commission is chaired by Dr. Franklin Murphy, chairman of the Times Mirror Co. of Los Angeles and former chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles. The co-chairman is Dr. Robert Ebert, dean of the School of Medicine at Harvard.

The other three members are Dr. Albert L. Lehninger, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Paul A. Marks, vice president for health sciences at Columbia University; and Dr. David B. Skinner, chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago Hospital and Clinics.

Benno Schmitt, chairman of the President's Cancer Panel, is an ex-officio member.



DR. EWALD W. BUSSE



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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

"Where'd You Get Them Bird Legs?"

Carrie Typifies 'The Best of Patient Care'

By David Williamson

A medical center the size of Duke has many "unsung" heroes.

They're the kind of people one never reads about in the newspapers—not making waves and not making headlines. They come to work and do their jobs day in and day out, year in and year out.

They won't go down in the annals of medicine, and they don't make much more money than it takes to just get by.

They're the backbone of the medical center.

And Carrie Allen, an advanced patient care assistant on Reed Ward is one of them.

Mrs. Allen has worked at Duke since 1969—not a long time by some standards—but in those six years she's made her mark with everyone who has come to know her.

She's the kind of woman who does a lot to make patients well again.

The mother of five didn't begin her working career in the health care field.

Believe it or not, she started out making battleships. During World War II, she moved to Philadelphia at age 17 to get a job to help support her parents. Her mother had her brothers and sisters to care for, and her father was sickly and couldn't work.

Mrs. Allen first job was as a welder, and she fused massive steel plates into the sides of the *U.S.S. Wisconsin*. She also repaired the luxury-liner-turned-troopship *H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth* and other shell-damaged vessels—often putting in seven days a week.

"I could weld anything but a broken heart and the break of day," she said proudly while recalling her "hard hat" days. "I made \$200 a week, and that was a lot of money 30 years ago."

After the war came 18 "green seasons" with the Venable Tobacco Co.

and then a stint with the W. G. Pearson School as a teacher's aid.

Then she transferred to the hospital and found her calling as a patient care assistant.

"There's nobody who doesn't love that woman," said Debbie Humphreys, head nurse on Reed Ward. "She gets more individual mail from patients than everyone else on the ward combined. Letters just addressed to the ward usually mention her."

"If she's responsible for one group of patients one day and another the next, she'll be sure to stop and see every one of the first group before leaving work," Ms. Humphreys added. "She'll do it until they've gone home, too."

"And if we have a patient who is depressed and won't confide in us, we always call a "consult" with Carrie and then send her in. She's our secret weapon."

Mrs. Allen's philosophy of life is

simple. It works for her. As she explained it — "The longest day goes away when you can laugh. I've always got something funny going for the patients and the staff. Laughter is the best medicine."

Personally, she carries a deep religious feeling and a belief in God. "He keeps my motor running," she said. But she doesn't force her beliefs on others.

You'd have to try awfully hard not to like the jovial 48-year-old, people on Reed say. She buys Christmas presents for everyone "as far as my little money will go." She sends everyone valentines. She brings her fellow employees something different to eat every day. She gives candy to patients.

Mrs. Allen keeps young by working hard, doing more than her share without ever complaining and by getting involved.

She has nicknames for everyone. She calls male patients "roosters" and female patients "hens." Given a choice, she confided, "I prefer the roosters." Martha Reeves, assistant head nurse, admitted that her own nickname is "Miss Hips."

Ms. Humphreys recalls the day she assumed head nurse responsibilities on Reed. She was nervous at the beginning of her first staff meeting until Carrie, who she didn't know, walked up to her and demanded, "Where did you get them bird legs?" That put everyone in hysterics and broke the ice.

New nurses, many of whom share an early loneliness, all get the same treatment from Mrs. Allen. She reaches out to them just as she does to the patients.

"I know I wouldn't want everybody I didn't know looking at me and not saying anything," she explained. "That's just getting along. It's what makes the world go 'round."

"Now I told it like it is."

UNSUNG HERO— Carrie Allen, an AP-CA on Reed Ward, is one of those people you don't read about much in the newspapers, but in her own way she's a great person to work with, say her fellow employees. She has contagious gifts of laughter and goodwill. *Photo by David Williamson)*

