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FMG issue pits solons, RP medics

The issue of foreign medical graduates, (FMGs), particularly in connection with recent moves to force their repatriation to their home countries, will be taken to the American public for the first time when a panel of Filipino doctors and New York State legislators is interviewed over the Barry Farber Show on Saturday, June 14, 1975 over WOR-Radio, AM 710.

The Barry Farber show, a syndicated broadcast program which has interviewed leading American politicians on topics of national interest will be aired over WOR-Radio's stations across 38 states.

Those invited to form the panel for the interview are Senators Israel Ruiz and Anthony Imperiale, Dr. Lupo Carlota, chairman of the national council of the Philippine Medical Association in America (PMAA), and concurrently secretary general of the infant Coalition on Foreign Medical Graduates and Reuben Seguritan, a New York attorney and one of the legal counsels of the PMAA.

The panel is expected to expound on the moral and legal points involved in the proposed forced repatriation of foreign medical graduates now practicing in the United States without any permanent resident status. A large number of foreign doctors, including Filipinos, are affected by the repatriation move. It will also discuss the possible effects on the health manpower needs of this country as a result of the repatriation of the foreign-trained doctors.

Last May 21 Senator Ruiz sponsored a resolution in the New York Senate urging that any proceedings for the forced repatriation of foreign medical graduates be "stopped immediately."

The resolution, which was also filed by Assemblyman Alan Hochberg at the NY State Assembly, took note of the drastic decrease in medical services which will become available to people of New York as a result of the repatriation of thousands of doctors, pointing out that the availability of physicians in

New York state is "actively lacking."

According to statistics released by the New York State Medical Society, there are now 47,739 licensed doctors in the state, 6,732 less than last year.

Dr. Lester J. Candela, executive director of the Queens County Medical Society, said the decrease can be traced to the fact that about only 10 percent of recently graduated medical students choose to practice in New York.

"These young people simply don't have the amount of money to start practice here," he said.

In the last three or four years, Dr. Candela said, the number of new doctors entering New York was 3,800. More than half of these were foreign-trained.

The Ruiz resolution, the first step taken by the doctors in an effort to fight the repatriation move, also took note of the "valuable, competent and dedicated health services" contributed by foreign-educated doctors to the people of New York State.