

Remarks (revised and extended) to open the session on  
“Evolution of Health Care Practices and Institutions”  
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I would like to thank the conference organizers for the invitation and for organizing this session and Judith Brown, Wesleyan’s former Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, for facilitating Wesleyan’s sponsorship of this year’s conference along with Yale and the University of California at Davis.

I’m not here because I am an expert upon health care practices or institutions, but because this session is dedicated to my colleague Stanley Lebergott, who turned 90 this summer. Stan is not well enough to attend these meetings, but I know he and his wife Ruth are touched by the knowledge that the organizers and the EHA are thinking of him.

Stan came to Wesleyan as a Professor of Economics in 1962 and, from 1970 until his retirement in 1988, was the Chester Hubbard Professor of Economics. I think that the choice was between Wesleyan and Stanford, but Ruth had family in New Haven, they came east instead of west. That was lucky for us.

Prior to coming to Wesleyan, Stan had spent 24 years at the US Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget), five years at the Department of Labor, and two years at the International Labour Organization.

Stan’s record of research is broad as well as deep, and includes work on topics ranging from the introduction of new drugs, to the construction of National Income and Product accounts, to essays on the Civil War. He is perhaps best known for his work on labor markets, income, inequality and, of course, for his magisterial work, *Manpower in Economic Growth* (1964). He is the author of seven books (the most recent published in 1996) and an awfully large number of articles. He has held a number of important and posts and received many honors, including service as president of this Association.

On a personal level, Stan was unfailingly kind and supportive of me when I arrived at Wesleyan. Needless to say, following Stan as the Economic Department’s economic historian was a daunting task. Stan never made it feel that way: he did not give unsolicited advice, but when solicited, it was forthcoming—and always in a kind and gentle way. If he marked up a manuscript of mine with lots of suggested changes (which he did frequently), he would quickly show me one of his own that he had marked up even more dramatically. I also remember the first couple of EHA meetings I attended with Stan. I was not always the outgoing individual you see before you today and was a more than a little bit intimidated at the prospect of introducing myself to the scholars I had only met in the pages of their books and articles. At those first few meetings Stan would ask

me, "Have you met so-and-so yet?" If the answer was no (which it usually was), he would guide me over and say, "Have you met my new colleague, Richard Grossman?"

It is a great privilege for me to dedicate this session in his honor.