

# Lexington's Rankin Tells ACS It Should End 'Fee-Splitting'

CHICAGO, Oct. 10 (AP)—The American College of Surgeons should make every effort to end the practices of fee-splitting, ghost surgery and the charging of exorbitant fees, says the new president of the organization.

It is the responsibility of the college "to make every effort to end these practices," Dr. Fred W. Rankin of Lexington, Ky., said Friday night.

## Past AMA Head

Dr. Rankin, a past president of the American Medical Association, spoke at his inauguration as president of the college. Attending were 1,178 surgeons who were accepted into the college as fellows after colorful cap and gown ceremonies.

Dr. Rankin said "there are still men in our profession—fortunately their number is small—who practice division of fees, who do ghost surgery, who perform unnecessary operations, and who charge exorbitant fees for their services.

"High ethical standards, honesty, integrity and the stoutness of character to which we give the old-fashioned name of uprightness are still the spiritual values which men should live by.

## Still Same

"Yet, there are some in our midst who do not recognize their obligations or who, recognizing them, lack the courage to live by them. They fall into the twin pitfalls of avarice and ill-gotten gains."

Dr. Rankin said that the practices have been condemned by the AMA and by numerous state medical groups. He added that during the past year "attempts have actually been made in certain medical organizations to discipline the regents of this college who simply told the truth about these insidious practices in press conferences. These attempts did not

succeed. I doubt that such attempts will ever succeed."

## 16 State Doctors

The College of Surgeons designated 16 Kentucky surgeons as fellows in the organization. They based the selections on education, moral character and ethical practice.

They included:

J. Marvin Keeton, Ashland; John J. Sonne, Bardstown; Hubert C. Jones, Berea; Richard Finely Grise, Bowling Green; W. Vernon Lee, Covington; Robert H. English, Henderson; John G. Coleman, Lexington.

Harold F. Berg, Laman A. Gray, Baline Lewis, Thomas M. Marshall, Herbert Randell Jr., James M. Riley Jr., and William J. Schutz, all of Louisville; Donald C. Haigh, Mayfield, and William H. Cartmell, Maysville.