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(and Dixie Farm News)

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TRUMAN'S NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

President Truman called upon Congress to enact a broad national health insurance program which would cover and protect all Americans "who work for a living" and their dependents.

His message was immediately hailed by AFL President William Green as embodying the principles which the federation has long espoused. Mr. Green called for universal support of legislation to carry out the President's plan.

This legislation was promptly introduced in Congress by Senators Wagner and Murray and Representative Dingell.

The President reiterated several times in his message that the five point program he submitted is not "socialized medicine" and should not be misrepresented as such.

He insisted that the health of the American people is a national concern and must be treated as a national problem on an insurance basis.

Besides health insurance, the President's program included increased grants to states for construction of hospital facilities; expansion of public health, maternal and child care services; sickness and disability insurance for workers and federal grants to public and non-profit institutions to promote medical education and research.

In most respects, the program was similar to that contained in the original Murray-Wagner-Dingell bill which was originally drafted by the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green pledged support to the President in a telegram which said:

"I congratulate you on your vigorous and forward looking message to Congress on national health. Your five-point program is in complete accord with the program initiated and supported by the AFL. It meets the urgent human needs of our nation and merits support of all men of good will."

In his message the President said:

"Under the plan I suggest, our people would continue to get medical and hospital services just as they do now—on the basis of their own voluntary decisions and choices. Our doctors and hospitals would continue to deal with disease with the same professional freedom as now. There would, however, be this all-important difference: whether or not patients get the services they need would not depend on how much they can afford to pay at the time."

Mr. Truman said that Americans would be free to choose their own physicians and hospitals, and free also to pay for medical service outside the health insurance system—just as they are free to send their children to private instead of public schools, although they must pay taxes for public schools.

Likewise, he said, physicians would remain free to accept or reject patients. They would be allowed to decide for themselves whether they would participate in the health insurance system full time, part time, or not at all.

Hospitals, he said, would have the same freedom of action. President Truman told Congress that he favored the broadest possible coverage for the national health insurance system.

"I believe," he said, "that all persons who work for a living and their dependent should be covered under such an insurance plan. This would include wage and salary earners those in business for themselves, professional persons, farmers, agricultural labor, domestic employes, government employe and employes of nonprofit institutions and their families."

In addition, the President said, needy persons and other groups should be covered through premiums paid for them by public agencies. Congress, he said, should vote appropriations to reimburse the states for such premiums as well as for expenditures made by the states in paying for medical services provided by doctors and hospitals to needy persons. The program would be financed largely through increases in social security taxes.

A summary of the specific recommendations made to Congress by President Truman follow:

Recommendation 1. Construction of hospitals and related facilities. Federal aid should be provided for construction of hospitals, health centers and other facilities where they are needed. These are essentials if doctors are to be able to furnish modern services.

Recommendation 2. Expansion of public health, material and child health services. The existing co-operative health programs between the federal and state governments should be expanded with the help of increased federal funds. All parts of the country and all groups in the population should be able to benefit from them. Expansion is especially important to prevent disease and to provide services for mothers and children. Approximately 40 million persons in the United States live in communities which still lack full-time public health services.

Recommendation 3. Medical education and research. We cannot remain satisfied with what we already know about health or disease. The opportunities for further health progress are very large. Research pays large dividends. Professional education should keep pace with progress. Federal grants in aid should assist and encourage research, so that we shall learn more about how to prevent and cure disease. Federal aid should also support more adequate professional education. Special emphasis should be paid to research on the cause, prevention and cure of cancer and mental illnesses.

Recommendation 4. Prepayment of medical costs. Everyone should have ready access to all necessary medical, hospital and related services. The costs of essential medical services should not stand in the way of the patient who needs care.

A compulsory national health insurance system is proposed toward attaining this goal. It would be a system for prepayment of the costs through premiums which people could afford, and which are paid while they are well and working. This is not socialized medicine.

Prepayment would relieve families of worry about medical costs and would encourage them to receive care as soon as it is needed. Thus, it would also work toward preventing serious disease.

Patients would remain free to choose their doctors. Doc-

tors would remain free to accept or reject patients. Hospitals would continue to manage their own services. Voluntary organizations could participate in the insurance system, either to provide services and if paid therefor, or to assist in administration, depending on their functions.

Decentralized administration would provide for needed local adjustments in fees, methods of payment and arrangements for services.

Doctors and hospitals could expect improvement and stability of income, at the same time that patients are relieved of unexpected and burdensome costs.

Recommendation 5. Protection against loss of wages from sickness and disability. Disability insurance would protect America's families by guaranteeing some income when they are sick or permanently disabled.

The President urged the Congress to consider such health legislation now. This five-point program would strengthen the nation to meet future problems. It would contribute greatly to freedom from want.

ON PUBLIC OPINION

If you are of my generation, probably you are as impressed as I am with how well versed people are today in what is going on in the world. Maybe the radio has brought this about—but I like to think it is something more than that. I like to think that it is all part of a sincere desire to find out what is what, and why.

Ignorance never settles a question. This has been proven again and again throughout history. Public opinion is usually in advance of the law. And public opinion is based upon what people think and know about a question. As Josh Billings said: "It is better to know nothing than to know what ain't so." But it is much more important to be well informed.

For—mark it well, there is nothing a well informed public opinion cannot do. Occasional error of opinion does no harm so long as reason is left free to combat it.

It is reason, and reasoning, that is needed at the present moment when our knowledge of all subjects—history, trade, labor and industry—must all be global in character. We cannot afford to pigeon-hole a single fact. We cannot afford to isolate our minds. We cannot afford to assume knowledge.

We must know the background as well as the foreground—for in the last analysis the peace of the world, the peace of the future will not be in the keeping of the rulers of the states, but in the keeping of the people who support those rulers. Centuries ago a Chinese philosopher said: "The people are the hosts and the ruler is the guest; the hosts always live in the house, while the guests may be invited to stay or asked to leave."

In the last analysis no dictator can stay in power without the public behind him. People may not always have the government that they deserve, but they will always have the government they applaud.

Of a self-governing people, of a free people, one says that they know what they believe. Their beliefs are their purposes. Let men be good and the government cannot be bad.

Get all the facts. Listen and study and then make up your mind—for you are public opinion.

—Ruth Taylor.

GREEN OFFERS AID TO AMERICAN LEGION

Chicago—AFL President William Green told the American Legion in a challenging address that the future security of veterans and workers depends upon lasting international peace and national prosperity.

The nation's debt to those who fought and won the war, Mr. Green said, can only be redeemed by "making good our sacred pledge that the last war shall be the last world war" and by according to the living "the fullest opportunity for a decent living."

Mr. Green emphasized that organized labor is deeply conscious of its obligations to servicemen and will insist that they get a fair break in civilian life.

"But the basic economic problems of the nation's servicemen cannot be adequately solved merely by protecting their legal rights or even by extending preferential treatment to them," he continued.

"In the long run, it would become a tragic mistake to place them in a unique class, separate and apart from their fellow citizens. I am convinced that the veterans themselves do not want anything like that. They know that they must stand or fall together with all other Americans. They realize that their chances of getting ahead depend upon whether all of us, as a nation, can succeed in making our democracy move forward."

"Unless there is full employment in America, veterans as well as workers will suffer. Unless we recapture prosperity, veterans will feel the pangs of depression along with the rest of the people."

Declaring that veterans will not be satisfied with limited opportunities because they know so much more can be made available for all by unified national effort, Mr. Green then dramatically stated labor's program. He said:

"The question, then, is shall we make that effort? Labor says yes. Shall we speed up the lagging pace of reconversion? Labor says yes. Shall we expand peacetime production to the point where the needs of the American people can be met? Labor hopes that industry's answer will be yes."

"Shall we establish full employment at wages high enough to allow our people to purchase the products of farm and factory and thereby keep the wheels of production turning at full speed? Labor insists the answer must be yes?"

"Shall labor and industry try to get together on a sensible and co-operation basis which will respect each other's rights and freedoms yet provide assurance for industrial peace? The American Federation of Labor says yes."

"Shall we halt government encroachment upon the daily lives of our people and drop wartime controls as rapidly as safety permits? Again the answer is yes."

"These are the essentials of an economic program on which the nation's workers and the nation's veterans can unite wholeheartedly with all other Americans. It will take more than wishful thinking to carry out this program, but the American people do not mind hard work if it is going to get them somewhere."

To prevent future wars, Mr. Green urged strengthening of the United Nations organization and the highest degree of national defense.

He said the AFL shared the antagonism of the veterans to Fascism, Nazism, Communism or any other form of totalitarianism. Throughout its history, he said, the AFL has "staunchly resisted the infiltration of such subversive influences into the ranks of labor and we are determined to carry on that policy even more firmly in the future."

Mr. Green bluntly told the Legion labor disagreed with its views on compulsory, universal military training.

"New scientific developments," he said, "have taken this issue out of the controversial field. The atomic bomb, jet propulsion and rockets are bound to revolutionize future defense strategy. If war ever breaks out again, it will not be fought by large standing armies, arrayed against each other face to face, but by death-spouting machines which can wipe out entire cities and kill millions while operating thousands of miles from the object of attack."

"In the first place we cannot contemplate or permit such a war because it would destroy civilization itself. In the second place, to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring we must concentrate on developing our scientific and mechanical equipment to such a point that no aggressor will dare to fire the first shot. We cannot defend ourselves or intimidate any future enemy by compelling all our young men to spend a year of their lives learning how to do squads right or squads left, or how to shoot out-modded rifles."

Tell your family These things about Social Security



- 1 That you have a Social Security account and that this may mean monthly insurance benefits for your wife and children if you should die. Or for your elderly parents if you are supporting them.
2 Where you keep your SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT CARD.
3 Tell them also to Get in touch with the nearest Social Security Board Office in case of your death, and...
4 File their claims PROMPTLY so that they may not lose any of their payments.

Federal Security Agency SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

OPENS DRIVE FOR HOUSING LAWS

(Continued from Page 1)

an attack against repetition of past failures, an attack toward a clearly-stated objective of a decent home for every family, we cannot escape large-scale unemployment and we cannot avoid another destructive and disastrous depression," Mr. Green declared.

War has brought the problem to a head, the AFL chief pointed out. Shortage of decent living quarters is acute in every major city and returning servicemen are unable to find homes.

"It is for Congress to decide now upon its answer to the servicemen," Mr. Green continued. "It is prepared to tell the returning serviceman that his inability to live in a good home is none of Congress' business and none of the business of us for whom they fought? Is that the answer to 3,000,000 veterans who are in the immediate need of establishing new homes and setting up new families? Will Congress give this answer to over 6,000,000 of the 12,000,000 veterans who will be in dire need of housing within a year?"

"Nor will labor accept any temporary or makeshift program for the provision of housing to meet the immediate emergency as the real answer to the veterans' demand for permanent homes. Stop-gap housing must be provided at once on a temporary basis to relieve the immediate pressure for dwelling accommodations. But let me impress upon this committee that the real solution is the long-term solution, the bold and comprehensive solution which S. 1592 provides. Housing will continue to be a perennial and permanent problem for the families of veterans, for their children, for those for whom they fought—housing which is not makeshift, but durable, livable and within the reach of the incomes these families will earn."

"The need to answer the veterans demand for postwar housing is urgent and pressing. Let us make housing for the veteran. But let us not fall into the error of stopping at a temporary solution for what is patently a permanent problem. As servicemen become civilians they share in the need for housing with all other civilians. The homes they need are not for themselves alone, but also for their families, relatives and dependents. The homes they now ask for are homes which are adequate to serve them over many years. They are homes which should be good enough to bring up their children in."

"This demand for a large-scale long-range housing program is America's order of the day."

Mr. Bates told the Senate committee:

"Workers have a vital concern in housing as producers, as consumers and as citizens. It is the function and the duty of the AFL Housing Committee to place before Congress the views which are representative of the largest single group of Americans who have had the opportunity to consider and give democratic expression to their views and judgment on this matter so vital to them through the representative channels of the trade union movement."

"The general housing legislation now before you has the overwhelming support of the American Federation of Labor membership. Housing is today, and for the

years to come will remain, an issue of paramount importance to every American family. The decisions Congress is about to make with regard to long-term housing policy will vitally affect the very course of economic and political life of our nation. What Congress is about to do with regard to this legislation will be carefully watched and well noted by most families throughout the land. This is one issue on which the American people are prepared to make sure that the public interest is truly served by legislation and will tolerate no sacrifice of the public interest to accommodate special interests.

"On behalf of millions of American wage earners, I place before the Congress of the United States their overwhelming and unequivocal mandate, their urgent plea and insistent demand for prompt enactment of this legislation. I plead on behalf of millions of American citizens who hope for and expect an early and determined decision of this Congress, a decision which will vitally affect the future welfare, job opportunities and security for the American people."

"Labor and friends of labor place the responsibility for America's post-war reconstruction where it properly belongs—they place it squarely upon Congress. They place that responsibility on Congress here and now. For they know that on the legislative calendar of this postwar session of

the United States Congress there is no other measure which will give direct and positive aid to private enterprise, to local communities, and to the mass of our people, to help them achieve full production, full employment and a better living in the years to come."

When you have read The Journal pass it on to your neighbor.

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