

's And Con's Of The Proposed Health Program

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Local Students Discuss Socialized Medicine

High school students recently discussed the proposed Socialized Medicine program on the radio forum over WHCC. The students are members of the Tally-Ho Club, and give a weekly forum over the air, under the direction of Miss Alma Jackson, faculty advisor.

The statements of the students, in part, are given here, as a presentation of how students feel on this subject.

Editor's note—The expressions presented herein are those of the respective students and not necessarily the opinions of this newspaper.

By Brent Chapman

I am opposed to socialized medicine for the following reasons:

I believe the standard of medicine would definitely be lowered. This has been found to be true in other nations which have tried socialized medicine. Members of any profession need an incentive of accomplishment. People do not want to all be cast in the same mold. People resent regimentation. Doctors do not feel that government control will improve health.

Let us take the teaching profession as an example. Thousands of teachers have left the profession. We are badly in need of teachers and we are trying to get them back.

I think under socialized medicine the same thing would happen to doctors. We already have a shortage and more and more young people are hesitating about entering the profession because of the threat of socialized medicine. The doctors and dentists, through observing socialized medicine in other countries, firmly believe that the health of the nation would become a political football. According to Hon. Frederick C. Smith of Ohio speaking in the House of Representatives on January 13, 1949 quote "The U. S. is the only country which spends an adequate amount on medical research. Nearly all of the medical progress made in the world in the past 37 years has been in this country. During the same period nothing of importance has come from Soviet Russia or from any country in the grips of either socialism or communism."

By Malcolm Russell Williamson, Jr.

Socialized medicine is the greatest threat to democracy in this country.

If any part of the president's

program should become law the advanced position that medicine has attained in this country would be swept away overnight. The only solid evidence that can be produced on the subject is the effect of the present program in England. We, therefore, can, by looking at England see what would happen to us if we should adopt this deadly program.

In England doctors are so hopelessly overcrowded that no one can receive proper attention. A typical example of the present practice is this: A doctor asks all patients suffering with colds to raise their hands, his nurse then hands out pills and he asks those suffering from another common ailment to raise their hands, etc.

The president's health program calls for a three per cent payroll tax, this on top of the social security tax and an ever increasing number of others.

A leading representative of the American Medical Association last Sunday stated that if medical care was to be sufficient the tax would have to be 36%.

America can not stand taxes like this.

Even if we could pay for it we must not have it.

It would stymie the American doctors who have become the best in the world. Socialized Medicine would destroy America's health record built through hard work and enterprise by free American doctors.

By Jimmy Whitman

Everywhere in our country today socialized medicine is one of the basic discussions for argument. To me, this is a subject which should be acted upon, and not merely talked about. If a satisfactory plan can be worked out, I am personally for it no matter what petty arguments are put against it.

The idea of social insurance for health was introduced into Europe about 80 years ago.

Health insurance has proven beneficial in other countries. The Germans have had some form of insurance since 1854, which has been proven since their comparatively good health of all during the war. The British system first established in 1911, covers every person receiving less than \$1,250 a year.

If it is passed in our country, it is probable that the system will omit cash profits and merely provide medical care for the needy. Each state would set up its own insurance system, subject to the approval of the Social Security Board. All manual workers would be compelled to join, others earning only a certain amount would be insured, agriculture workers would be exempted. Every type of medical care would be immediately available to the insured.

Any physician could join, thus not compelling all. Private systems of these plans have proved it is practical to spread the costs of medical care in this country. These reasons have also proved to me that we should have medical care for all, and not a choice group.

By Bobby Harry

Before we can intelligently discuss this question, we should know just what "Socialized Medicine" is. Socialized Medicine means that the doctors are salaried employees of the government. All medical services are controlled by the government, and medical care is furnished to citizens through the government.

Most people think that the United States has the highest quality of medical care and pharmaceutical service in the world. That is not entirely correct. This high quality of medical assistance is available in the United States to those who can afford to pay for it. The trouble with our present system is that the cost of this care and service is beyond the reach of fully half of our population. Almost half of the people in the United States live in families where the total family income is less than \$3,000 a year and these people simply cannot afford the cost of adequate medical care under the present system. Furthermore the distribution of hospitals and physicians is very uneven throughout the country, with the result that many rural areas and small towns do not have adequate medical care or pharmaceutical facilities.

Voluntary health insurance is growing rapidly but is still in an early stage. The rapid growth of various voluntary plans now in operation shows how eagerly the public respond to the idea of insurance against the burden of hospitalization costs and doctor's bills; however, the high premium rates required under these plans are beyond the reach of the very people who need such protection the

Winners In Contest Get Cash Prizes



The climax of the speakers' contest sponsored by the North Carolina Bankers Association came in Haywood when the first and second place winners got their cash prizes. Miss Cenie Ferguson, of Fines Creek, is shown receiving first place prize from J. H. Way, Jr., on the extreme right, while Wade Frances, of Waynesville, is being awarded for second place by Jonathan H. Woody, (left). The officials of the First National Bank participated in the state contest, which featured soil conservation. Photo by Ingram Studio.

most. These plans offer only partial protection even for those who can afford to enroll. Most voluntary plans eliminate the so-called bad risks and restrict the types of illness or disability for which they will assume responsibility as well as limiting the amount of care which the member is entitled to receive. Therefore, voluntary health insurance has demonstrated that it cannot possibly do the full job for the 147,000,000 people living in the United States.

By Coretta Henson

What does the term, "socialized medicine," really mean? Congress has been faced with a demand for a national health plan. As Americans we have been deeply concerned. We want to get better medical care for more Americans. The Government wishes to operate this plan by collecting insurance for health. Out of the insurance collected the government would pay the bills. Doctors do not want to receive pay from the government because they do not like any plan which will give a government agency control of part of their affairs.

Americans need better medical care now. Those that have low incomes either cannot afford medical care or they must do without it as long as possible. In such a case if a health insurance had been collected treatments could be provided.

Many parts of the country have too few doctors, dentists, and hospitals. People in less densely populated areas have to go to bigger towns to see a doctor. Again, we see the need of an insurance health plan.

If we had a national health plan it would be good for the doctors. They could see their patients before the sicknesses developed to a critical stage. Relationships between doctors and patients would be about the same as present, also doctors would have a right to refuse patients. Doctors, probably would have a choice between private and public practices. Everyone needs a doctor sometime or another and that is why I think we need socialized medicine.

By Mary Osborne

There has been much said pro and con about socialized medicine. Recently at a meeting concerning it, Mr. Oscar Ewing, head of the Federal Security Board was quoted as having asked this question: "Which is more important, the personal, selfish business of 180,000 practicing physicians in this country or the health and well-being of 68,000,000 of our population?"

I think that he might better have asked, "Which is more important, the opinions and professional standards of 180,000 doctors who have been trained for the practice and have raised the American medical care to a level nowhere else achieved, or to the absurd notions of some millions of people that if medicine became a federal bureaucracy better medical care would immediately result?"

The doctors have many good objections to socialized medicine. In the first place, they would be pitifully over-worked. This would result from a shortage of doctors. Putting it plainly, 500,000 doctors would be needed where there are now 180,000.

Since more people have taken out hospitalization insurance, the price of it has gone down considerably. The prices will continue to go down as more people buy it. This is the case also in medical care. If these prices continue on this trend there is absolutely no reason to socialize medicine.

Steps Out With Pig's Feet

SOUTH BEND, Ind., (UP)—Police sprinted several blocks before they caught an attractive, 25-year-old, fast-stepping woman charged with shoplifting. Her loot was a jar of pickled pig's feet.

Miss Cenie Ferguson Contest Winner Black Picture Painted On Affects Of Erosion In Prize Winning Speech

"Gullied fields remain as skeletons of once prosperous lands. Ruins and Scalds grow nothing where once grew giant oak trees."

That is part of the graphic word-picture of erosion's effects, Miss Cenie Ferguson of Fines Creek painted Thursday in the District Soil Conservation Speaking Contest.

Her efforts won her third place in the competition in which representatives from seven counties took part. She had won the Haywood county championship the day before.

The 4-H club girl titled her address, "The soil as mother nature built it, as the pioneers found it, and as it is today."

After presenting her bleak earliest picture of the effects of erosion, Miss Ferguson suggested these ways of reducing it:

- Plant trees on steep hills.
- Devote rolling lands to permanent pastures.
- Terrace-crop land.
- Practice strip cropping.
- Plant with the contour instead of in straight rows.
- Produce more close-growing

crops, such as grain.

Provide meadow strips for holding water.

Prevent over-grazing in sections of limited rainfall.

Use only the best soils for the production of cultivated crops.

The key to preventing erosion and holding topsoil, Miss Ferguson declared, can be expressed in the word "cover"—the combination of grasses, shrubs, legumes and trees which blanket the earth and bind the topsoil.

To get food, natural cover must be broken. But still, she continued, the land can be used in such a way that "erosion is still held at bay".

Crop rotation, she said, is one way to do it, helping as it does to maintain and increase soil production and making for a more prosperous agriculture.

Another way is through adding plant food in the form of commercial fertilizer.

(Continued on Page 5)

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