

'Not a Prayer'



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man
And He May Be Wrong

Medical Care

One school of thought insists that it is the duty of each citizen to make his own arrangements for medical care, and at the other extreme is the feeling that all medical care should be the problem of the government.

Somewhere between these extremes congress is groping for an answer to the certainty of bankruptcy that haunts the average person suffering any prolonged period of bad health.

Few will argue that it is possible for any but the very wealthy to make provision for prolonged illness, and perhaps a few more will insist that the "general welfare" phase of the Constitution extends to complete medical care for every citizen.

Men of utter good faith on both sides of this issue have been trying for a long time to come up with an answer to this problem. So far that answer has not been found.

Doctors — at least the vocal majority — violently oppose government medicine, but they, who are closest to the problem, have offered no proposal worth serious consideration.

In the past generation modern medicine and general national prosperity have made it possible for doctors to earn a great deal of money. The general practitioner of not-so-long ago made a living but not much more than a comfortable living, and his fees were based largely upon his patient's ability to pay. A generation ago the relationship

between doctor and patient was such that few secrets — financial or medical existed between them.

The doctor of that era treated a large percentage of his patients in their home, avoiding the expense of hospital care. When the family purse got empty the doctor kept coming, handing out medicine from his little black bag. Today medicine performs miracles that those pills from the doctor's bag could not a generation ago, but they are expensive, if effective.

Each of us wants nothing but the very latest and best medicine when we or a member of our family are sick. This is expensive.

Government has stepped into the hospital program, but the cost of hospitalization has gone higher in spite of the fact that wages paid hospital employees lag behind those in most other work.

For the veteran and the indigent there is free medical care already provided by the tax payer. Equity questions the morality and legality of a system that gives services to one segment of the population while denying it to others.

Ninety per cent of us are medically indigent; in that we could not afford a prolonged illness even with the most liberal forms of private hospitalization insurance. Unless an answer is found, and quickly the pressure will force congress to move in that direction most of us fear: Total tax-supported medicine.

Balance Of Power

One of the worst threats represented by the blind insistence of General DeGaulle on equal power is the possible return to the system of fractional power of pre-World War I times.

Horrible as the thought may seem to some the balance of power in the world today is far easier to maintain than a generation ago, when England, France, Germany, Austria, Russia and Italy all felt themselves powerful enough to maintain the peace.

The British for 200 years had the impossible job of trying to maintain the balance of power in Europe, which had ruled the world throughout modern history.

The British failure to maintain this balance of power inevitably ended in war.

Since the development of this horrible weaponry of modern war the balance of

power has seen-sawed between the United States and Russia. This had made the task far easier than when it was necessary to get a half dozen, or even at times a dozen nations placed in that delicate balance that preserved the peace temporarily.

For proud nations such as France, Germany and England it is awfully difficult to bow out and let to nations that were so recently "second or fourth rate" powers make the big decisions.

American diplomacy has shied away from putting the situation "cold turkey" to these old world powers, but the Russians in their new-rich exuberance have minced no words along this line.

The happy world would be that world in which man's ability to get along with his fellow man would be equal to his ability to

Stevens And Kennedy

The Reconstruction Era had its Thaddeus Stevens and the Integration Era has its Robert Kennedy. They are blood brothers morally and politically.

Old Thad was boss of the House of Representatives during the era when he tried to "install the Republican Party in power for a thousand years."

Young Bobby is boss of the not-much-justice department in this time when he is trying to "install the Kennedy Family in power for at least two administrations."

Old Thad, a fanatic from Pennsylvania, who kept a negro mistress and is buried beside her in a Lancaster cemetery, promised Southern negroes "40 acres and a mule". His plan, which came very near to being pushed through congress, was to confiscate the lands of all Southerners who had served the Confederacy, give every negro a 40-acre tract and a mule and sell the remaining land at auction and apply the money derived from this on the war debt. (One cannot avoid contrasting this attitude with that which has prevailed since the end of World War II and in which congress has given our ex-enemies and our sometime friends more than one hundred billion dollars.)

Stevens was the venal, sick old man who came within one vote of impeaching President Andrew Johnson because Johnson refused to bow down to such a vengeance against the South.

This generation's abuser of the Southern negro is younger, but just as venal politically as his direct preceptor. Young Bobby sends pious, mealy-mouthed racists such as Martin King into the South to stir up the negroes and to promise them things that cannot be delivered — and always with an eye to the next election.

This hustler in preacher's clothing managed to get himself in a Georgia jail just in time for Big Brother Kennedy to make the noble phone call that swung the negro vote in time to lick Nixon.

The most difficult to understand aspect of the entire mess is the gullibility of so many negroes. The negro usually has the ability to smell through such obvious schemes, and to recognize automatically when he is being used by the white hustler.

Happily, the majority of Southern negroes do not swallow this mixture of demagoguery and greed; since nowhere yet has the entire negro population followed this Pied Piper with the political whistle.

Here in our own backyard in the most recent election a negro candidate who had swallowed the Washington bait, hook, line and sinker, got less than one fourth of the registered negro vote and less than 10 per cent of the negro population even in the face of threats against their person and property refused to go along with an amateurish boycott of Kinston merchants that was staged by this same politician with the aid of a handful of poorly led school children.

But the vindictive press of the north, while ignoring infinitely worse incidents in their own backyard make glaring headlines every time this whimpering, Psalm-chanting, woman-chasing disciple of discord comes deliberately into the South and provokes trouble.

Given enough rope; the average hoggish politician will eventually hang himself. We have seen this happen to our own brand of racists in the south, who were working the exact opposite side of the street from Messrs. Stevens and Kennedy.

These northern bigots, who use the negro issue as a catspaw to snatch their jobs from the political fires in their home districts, are beginning to feel the hot breathe of their own constituencies.

White people in every city of any size in the north have been swamped by the flood of Southern negroes who have childishly gone north to collect on the promises made to them by these Kennedy types.

People who see the equity in their homes, their investments in public facilities going down this welfare state drain are becoming less concerned with the Southern race issue and more concerned with the losses they are suffering themselves.

manufacture instruments of destruction.

Such a happy world is nowhere near, but all things being equal the danger of a full-scale war breaking out is less now than it was in 1914 or 1939; when small men with great ambitions could not really grasp the power of their enemies. Today this power is awful and obvious.

PERSONAL

PARAGRAPHS

BY
JACK RIDER

Again this year, as for every year in recent memory the FBI reports an increase in the national crime rate. Far be it from me to pick an argument on the subject of crime with J. Edgar Hoover and his boys, but I suspect that the increase in crime is as much due to an increase in statisticians as an increase in crime itself.

Each year more and more law enforcement agencies employ either the part or full services of a statistician, which means simply that each year the compiled FBI figures are representing more and more agencies.

One statistic that is missing from the FBI figures from year to year is: What percentage of ALL law enforcement agencies is reporting? I dare say that there has been an increase in this percentage each year that would parallel and possibly exceed the percentages of increase in serious crime.

I know for a fact that all sheriff departments in North Carolina do NOT compile, file and forward complete statistics to the FBI. Each year there are more and more sheriff departments that do so, but the score is still far from 100 per cent. The same is true of small town police departments. Lack of personnel, lack of inclination and in some instances simply not knowing about such things as "unified crime reports" cause a very large percentage of the one, two and three-man police forces to never make reports.

But each year there are dozens of villages that become towns and dozens of towns that become cities, and somewhere along the line the law enforcement agency reaches that point of professional proficiency where for its own needs it must maintain files and compile statistics. Generally at this point they begin sending in their "crimes" to the FBI.

Of course, it's best not to persuade one's self to be too complacent on this subject; but it is equally dangerous to over-persuade one's self that the world is going to hell on a handcar. Changes in social mores also account for some increase in reported crimes. Southern negroes who have swarmed into northern cities looking for the pot of gold that the lying politicians have promised them make a huge contribution to this additional reported crime.

These same negroes from the cotton farms of Mississippi, the tobacco farms of the Carolinas and the clay hills of Georgia perhaps commit no more crimes in New York or Washington than they did back on the farm. But they are in a more sophisticated environment, which automatically includes its fair share of statisticians. Rape at the end of the cotton row, might be the beginning of a happy marriage; but rape in a Washington office building becomes a "crime statistic."

My general observation is that people are no worse than they ever were; it's just that there's so damned many more of us. And of course, the fact that we are increasing so rapidly tends to indicate that at least domestically there is occasional tranquility and cooperation.

In the field of larceny; kids back on the farm used to get an occasional load of bird-shot in the seat of their flying pants for raiding a watermelon patch or shaking the wrong peach tree; but when the children or grandchildren of this type snatches a melon or a peach from a fruit stand he is a juvenile delinquent, and, I might add, a statistic.

And the felonious assault field; there's hardly a farm community where there isn't a bitter breach between some families that has sprung from pa getting hell whipped out of him for cutting timber on his neighbors land, or some other kind of poaching. In the urban society of today such feuds cause indictments, and of such are the "unified crime reports" of the FBI.

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