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Health Insurance Must Be Extended

THE Eisenhower health program for 1956-57 offers the nation a choice of weapons to meet the critical problem of medical care for those millions of Americans who are annually bowled over by the high cost of catastrophic illness:

1.—Legislation to permit "pooling of risks" by private companies so that they can offer broader benefits and expanded coverage in health insurance.

2.—The old, dog-eared federal "reinsurance" plan which got nowhere in Congress in 1954 and 1955.

If no "practical and useful methods" can be worked out on a risk-sharing basis, the President indicates that he might revive "reinsurance" as a recommended cure.

The flexible nature of the proposal will help neither system win wide support. It is merely another illustration of Ike's rather over-cautious attitude toward the whole problem of medical care. His ears are undoubtedly still ringing from shouts of "socialized medicine" raised when he first proposed that Uncle Sam should assume some of the financial risk that private health insurance groups would incur by expanding coverage and benefits.

The charges were unfair and without foundation. The reinsurance plan was a perfectly reasonable method of easing a serious national problem. Furthermore, it fitted the President's well known conservative-liberal concept of the government's welfare role—that government should leave the people to "their own enterprise and initiative," but that it has an obligation to alleviate "unavoidable misfortune and distress."

Those last four words properly describe a situation existing in the United States today. It was reported last year that the nation's medical bill was running over $10 billion—an increase of $3 billion since 1948. Of this sum more than 25 per cent was covered by some form of prepaid health insurance.

But what about the rest of the nation's population?

Millions have to scrap their budgets, dig into savings or go into debt to pay as much as $7.5 billion for doctors, hospitals, nurses, dentists and the physical necessities of medical care.

As Mr. Eisenhower told Congress yesterday, "health insurance coverage is still not available to many who need it, and the character and amount of insurance protection in important aspects remains inadequate."

In greatest need perhaps are older people and those living in rural areas. But there are many others who need better health protection—the self-employed and workers employed by small organizations who cannot be reached through ordinary group insurance plans.

As the President has mentioned again and again, there is a particular need for much broader coverage against the cost of long-term or other especially expensive illnesses—the "catastrophic" types.

This is not a problem that can be put off. Admittedly there has been some extension of coverage. But gains have not been swift enough. It is fairly obvious that some plan whereby the government assumes part of the risk is essential to satisfactory expansion.

There is great need for leadership in this vital field. The administration appears to be wavering in its resolve. An "either/or" approach to such problems is unsatisfactory. It remains for congressional hands to seize the initiative. The problem is too serious to lie limp and untended for another session.

New Tools For A Continuing Task

IF President Eisenhower was less than firm in his health insurance proposals he was appropriately emphatic about the manner in which other health problems should be attacked.

His request for $126,525,000 for basic research to penetrate the "dark mystery" of cancer and other leading killers is worthy of wide support.

Last year, Mr. Eisenhower recommended that only $73.9 million be spent for five key medical research programs—less than half the $139.6 million recommended by professional advisory councils.

Basic research is vital to the health of the nation. It richly deserves Uncle Sam's encouragement. Too often in the past it has been an area of pinchpenny shortsightedness.

But favorable attention should also be given to certain other planks in the President's health platform for fiscal 1957. These include:

1—A new program of grants for construction of medical research and training facilities.

2—Badly needed steps to alleviate health personnel shortages through grants for training practical nurses, trusteeships for graduate nurses and other public health specialties.

3—Strengthening basic health facilities generally, including the first comprehensive survey of U. S. illness in 20 years.

These are essentials. The health of the nation is of the utmost importance. Great strides have been made in the battle against disease during the past year. But this is a continuing task. Mr. Eisenhower has proposed strong new tools to do the job.

Hockey: An Old Game On New Ice

IT HAS taken a couple of centuries for ice hockey to come to Charlotte from the frozen rivers and ponds of Europe where it developed from field hockey. In the interim the game has changed from neighborly free-for-alls on ice to a sport with mass appeal—it's Canada's national game—and standard rules and equipment.

Speed and precision skating and stick handling are now its hallmarks, but the sport retains enough body contact to satisfy even the lustiest fans of football and boxing. We know. We've seen it in the newsreels.

The Baltimore Clippers, we hopefully expect, will receive a warm welcome from Charlotteans when they play six of their last home games in the Coliseum. The better the reception the greater the chance that Charlotte will have its own team in the Eastern League next year. Besides offering satisfying entertainment, regular hockey competition in the Coliseum would add greatly to that facility's growing reputation as a sports center and, thereby, to its financial success.

To paraphrase a Washington figure, what's good for the Coliseum box office is good for Charlotte taxpayers. In this respect the Charlotte promoters—Jim Whittington, Dr. Robert Libby and Bill Shields — deserve congratulations for their speedy initiative in offering Charlotte a taste of the game.

Our hope is that in the future we'll see someone we know in the newsreels on hockey.

From The Reporter

SO LONG, BUCK

IT was bad enough when they started making Westerns realistic, but now they are even going to make them wholesome. An unfortunate trend in the latter direction was already apparent in the movies when all those tenors with guitars started taking the place of solid six-gun cowboys. Now the television people have come right out and admitted what they are doing, and it sounds ominous.

A spokesman for NBC said that the "cowboy hero now meets his pals in railroad stations, post offices, or other innocent places rather than in bars or poolrooms." We can see it now: Into the old Silver Dollar Post Office, Boy Scout's pace, comes the hero without a trace of swagger. (It's very difficult to swagger in a post office.) He meets his friend over by the parcel-post window. "Well, pals, what innocent places shall we visit tonight?"

The NBC spokesman also said the new TV cowboy here "doesn't slay the villain in a pistol duel, but merely 'wings' him, and brings him in to the formal justice of the court. Moreover, the cowboy here now speaks the King's English and does not use bad grammar, dialect, or improper pronunciation." ("It is I!" he cried. "I shall wing you on the finger, and take you to the law court.")

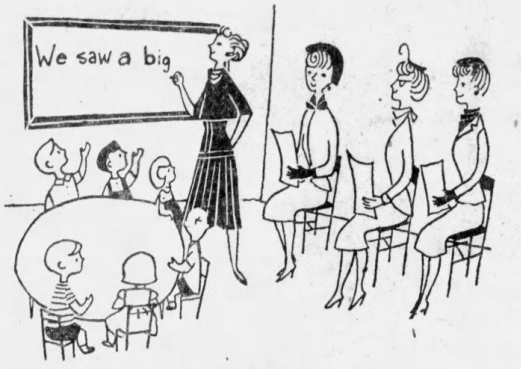
The NBC man told of these high-minded improvements before a meeting in New York of a state outfit with one of those nonstop official names. The Joint Legislative Committee to Study the Publication and Dissemination of Offensive and Obscene Material.

But the old Gold Nugget Saloon, with its gunfights and swinging doors, was not a place of wrong-doing. It was not like the neon-and-darkness place that Papa goes to. Rather, it was part of the essential scenery of a romantic and fictional land which was as unreal, remote, and wonderful to the boy in Wyoming as to the boy in East Orange, New Jersey. The taciturnity and drawl of the cowboy were never the speech habits of a real world but part of a myth of the strong, lone, silent man of action, who serves the good people, licks the bad ones, has one good horse, and never is dependent on nobody. On anybody.

Maybe we reflect that tendency of every generation to think its own childhood entertainment was innocent while it distrusts that of its own children, but we think the classic Western was a wholly different thing from the atrocious perversities of horror comic books and Mickey Spillane. In the latter, there is always a fierce enjoyment of the torture that the brutal hero metes out to the villain. Old Buck Jones or Ken Maynard never did anything like that. Sure, they knocked the outlaw off the cliff, but there was no hatred in it. We didn't follow his fall, and almost before he had time to reach the bottom, our hero was bidding a fleeter farewell to the lovesick and somewhat incidental young female whose ranch he had saved, riding off on his faithful white horse into the sunset. Clean up the old-time Western indeed! Smile when you say that, pardner.

People's Platform

Leave Public Education To The Professionals



Too Many Kibitzers?

Dixie Has Its Own 'Little Kilkennies'

Whiteville

Editors, The News:

OUR-SOUTHERN Negroes have an easy time of it, compared to the fourteenth-century Irish. This may come as quite a shock to a great many of our proud Celtic Tar Heels, but it happens to be an historical fact that the very first racial segregation law in all Anglo-Saxondom was enacted for the avowed purpose of "keeping the Irish in their place." The granddaddy of all racial segregation laws in the English-speaking world was the infamous "Statute of Kilkenny," which made the Irishman a "foreigner" in his own land and which reduced him to a level even below that of slave.

LITTLE KILKENNIES

The "Statute of Kilkenny" was enacted for the sole purpose of degrading and humiliating a proud and virile people. That, of course, is the sole purpose of any racial segregation law. We here in the South have our own "Little Kilkennies," each one a veritable masterpiece of bigotry, prejudice, and inhumanity. Of course under our "Little Kilkennies" here in the South it is the Negroes, and not the Irish, who get the smutty end of the stick. Now I certainly am not arguing in favor of mixing and mingling. All I say is that racial segregation laws are good or bad, right or wrong, depending entirely on viewpoint.

According to Lionel Plantagenet, author of the "Statute of Kilkenny," the native Irish were an "inferior" race. He did not even consider them human. A fanatical Celtophobe, Plantagenet was Viceroy of Ireland for his father, King Edward III of England. He piously declared intermarriage with the Celtic Irish "a crime against nature and a sin against both God and man." He outlawed the Irish language and compelled all Irishmen to take English names. He had Irish bards and scholars burned at the stake as "spies" and "traitors." He had Irish clergymen unfrocked and exiled and he had young Irish girls flogged through the streets of Dublin for the "crime" of singing Irish songs. Sure, the "Statute of Kilkenny" was a "good" law. But "good" for whom? The Irish? Hardly!

INTERMARRIAGE

Our own southern "Little Kilkennies" are based on exactly the very same kind of "reasoning" that went into the framing of the original. Lionel Plantagenet was able to quote Scripture to support his infamous legislation and to "prove" that the Celtic Irish were "the natural enemies of England and all Christendom." In those days it was the Irish who had the distinction of being called "the sons of Ham." Our "little Kilkennies" are much more humane, however. We do not burn people at the stake for intermarrying. Under our own "Little Tar Heel Kilkenny" we merely sentence them to prison at hard labor for a term of "not less than four months nor more than ten years." Our "Little Tar Heel Kilkenny" remains religiously true to the spirit of the original, though, for it very rightously classes intermarriage and "crimes against nature" together in Article XXVI, Section 14.

History bears witness to the fact that the original racial segregation law did not succeed in crushing the gallant Irish, though it remained in full force for a long, long time. In later centuries it was the Emerald Isle which produced some of Anglo-Saxondom's greatest scholars, writers, soldiers, and "empire builders." I predict an identical future for our colored brethren. We can continue "keeping them in their place" for the next hundred years. Even so, they will eventually produce peerless men and women of the very finest calibre who will further enrich our Anglo-Saxon culture, as did the downtrodden and persecuted Irish. In the meanwhile, though, I don't think they should be so infernally anxious for "equality." They are, one might say, still serving their cultural apprenticeship.

In one respect the bigots are absolutely right. Racial segregation laws do have tradition and precedence in their favor, for the "Statute of Kilkenny" was enacted nearly 600 years ago, a full century and a quarter before the discovery of America. Let's not be too harsh on the bigots. They mean well, even though most of the time they do approach the problem rather ignorantly.

—RALPH ROYAL GORE

Cold-Blooded Killers Should Be Executed

Gaffney, S. C.

Editors, The News:

THERE is as much difference between murder and lawful execution in the electric chair for murder as there is between truth and lie.

One writer says to execute capital punishment legally is murder. Then the writer mentions "a young man" who was dragged to the chair for execution (because he would not walk) begging for mercy and his plea was unheeded.

Yes, I heard about the man the writer had in mind, a cold-blooded murderer.

The writer mentions the executions of murderers as being a breach of society. A society of cut throats, criminals and murderers?

EXECUTE THEM

If it could be known who these murderers are, the country would be far better off if they were executed before they murder innocent people.

I consider a person who kicks against the legal vindication of the law for murder and desires the murderer to be turned loose for "their society" is not much better himself.

Oh, yes, the murderer may cry for mercy when he sees the chair. But he didn't heed the cries of the innocent ones he slew in cold blooded, devil-posessed, murderous crave for his victim.

The Bible says: "If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest."

—JOHN S. DICKSON

Many Presbyterians Will 'Take A Walk'

Mt. Gilead

Editors, The News:

AT A recent meeting of Mecklenburg Presbytery, held at Sharon Church, there was a preamble of several pages adopted which attempted to prove the arguments that segregation was un-Christian.

I defy anyone, either layman or minister, to prove there is anything in Holy Writ to substantiate this propaganda. If Almighty God in His infinite power and wisdom had so decreed this would not have been a white and black race.

But the court (I cannot use the term "supreme") came along and virtually said Almighty God had made a mistake and they, by the stroke of a pen, were going to correct it.

NO HATE

I have no hate or prejudice against the Negro race, a lot of them are my friends, as I was raised up with them, and as a race I respect them for what they are trying to do with help of white people of this state.

With the exception of a few agitators that care nothing whatever for the well-being of their races, the majority of Negroes do not want integration in churches and schools; they have their customs and laws of social order and are satisfied with same.

In this county (Montgomery) they have better equipped high schools and more modern than have white pupils. They have been constructed at a later date. And we, the white people of this county, are glad to support the building of these schools. And we pay approximately 97 per cent of taxes in this county.

NEVER SUBMIT

But the Anglo-Saxons of this county and the state of North Carolina will never submit to integration when neither race wants it.

In our own Presbyterian Church in the United States, if this were adopted, there would be tens of thousands of people who would "take a walk" in all sincerity, and I am one who loves his Presbyterian heritage, tracing it back to Inverness in the land of Skye, Scotland, for over 200 years. I can trace and prove that for six generations the McKinnon clan has furnished officers in Presbyterian church for that many years. And I am not going along with this integration scheme. And will say without fear of successful contradiction this opinion of court was Communist-inspired.

—C. C. McKINNON

'Where IS Everybody?'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Oil Tycoons Fattened On Tax Favors

WASHINGTON

REAL drive behind the natural gas bill now under debate in the Senate is a relatively small group of big oil-gas men. The Federal Power Commission has shown that 70 per cent of all gas purchased by the pipelines comes from only 42 oil-gas producers, as a result of which Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois has drafted an amendment to the gas bill exempting the smaller producers numbering several thousand from federal regulations.

The big producers, however, would still be regulated.

Morse Amendment

Simultaneously, Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon has drafted an amendment which, if the Fulbright-Harris bill passes, would require every unregulated company to forfeit the 27 1/2 per cent oil depletion tax exemption, and also forfeit its right to deduct from taxes the cost of drilling wells.

These two lush tax bonanzas which don't go to any other American industry are the chief reason for the political power of the Texas oil millionaires and why today they can make some senators jump through the hoop at the beck and call of their little finger.

Few people realize how vast are the empires built up by the Texas gas-oil tycoons, thanks to the fact that they are taxed 27 1/2 per cent less than others and can write off the entire cost of drilling a well in one year. When a farmer builds a barn, in contrast, he can't write off the cost for 30 years. When he buys a tractor, he can't write the cost off in less than eight years. Even U. S. Steel has to spread tax amortizations on a new plant over five years—and this only if it gets special permission from the U. S. Treasury.

Roll Call

However, here are some of the empires built up by the tax-favored Texas tycoons who now went further special exemption from the Supreme Court relieving that gas must be regulated:

H. L. Hunt—Former gambler from El Dorado, Ark., raised the wealthiest man in the world, has an income of $1,000,000 a day, and is worth two billions. He was a heavy backer of Gen. MacArthur for president and Sen. McCarthy for almost anything he wanted . . . . During the course of backing McCarthy, Hunt took over four different radio-TV programs which he offered free to networks—Facts Forum, Answers for Americans, Reporters Round-Up, and State of the Nation. These were operated by foundations, therefore were tax-free. Some of them featured a book by Allan Zoll, whose American Patriots is on the attorney general's subversives list.

Murchison's Millions

Clint Murchison—Rated about the third-richest oil-gas man in the world, owns Henry Holt Book Publishing Co., distributes extensive text-books through Henry Holt; owns Field & Stream, plus part of Martha Washington Candies; operates Diversified Investments Inc., of Minneapolis; put up part of the money to get control of the New York Central; owns Atlantic Life Insurance Co. of Richmond, Va.; also many motels, hotels, and drive-in theaters, plus the Del Mar Race Track, part of Transcontinental Bus and a West Coast steamship line . . . Murchison has frequently entertained Sen. McCarthy, helped finance McCarthy's campaign to defeat Sen. Tydings of Maryland, paid for the tabloid featuring a fake picture of Tydings smiling at Earl Browder of the Communist Party.

Cullen's 'Contributions'

Roy Cullen—Hasn't much idea of his own worth, has given away about $175,000,000, including political contributions to key senators and gifts to Gen. MacArthur's campaign committee. He backed Sen. Malone of Nevada with $1,000, also Sen. Barrett of Wyoming with $2,500, and the same amount to Sen. Beall of Maryland, all Republicans. Malone and Barrett are now listed as behind the natural gas bill while Beall is leaning in that direction . . . He also gave $1,000 to the campaign for Congressman Devereux of Maryland. Devereux voted for the gas bill . . . Cullen also gave $1,000 to the campaign fund of Sen. Watkins of Utah, listed as leaning toward the bill . . . Cullen's son-in-law, Corbin Strong, contributed $5,000 each to Sens. Barrett and Goldwater of Arizona. Both are backing the gas bill . . . Cullen hated Truman and Roosevelt, once asked Vice President Garner to abolish all taxes except the sales tax and customs duties.