

How Plush—

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length, seemingly in an attempt to prove something or other. However, the reader invariably finds that the PM articles make sense; as witness the following quote from PM, an article by Albert Deutsch, dated March 29, 1946. "A sordid tale of medical intrigue and unprincipled propaganda, conducted behind a hypocritical mask of professional dignity, may be unfolded in the course of the senate hearings on the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill for national health insurance which start next week. The tale hangs on a \$300,000 a year smear campaign loosed against the bill and its sponsors, including the President, by an alliance of reactionary medical and drug manufacturing interests."

Patent Medicine Companies Like Status Quo

"The campaign is godfathered and fostered by the American Medical Association. It is financed largely by big patent medicine companies. It is spearheaded by a dummy agency for organized medicine and masterminded by an ex-advertising man who once did the same job of an anti New Deal committee created and headed by publisher, Frank Gannett."

"The propaganda front . . . for organized medicine is the National Physicians' Committee for the Extension of Medical Service . . . It has flooded the nation's press with propaganda that distorts the aims and contents of the bill. It has succeeded in getting more than 3,000 full-page advertisements in newspapers throughout the country by an ingenious campaign wherein the mats for the ads are furnished free of charge and direct instructions are given to advertising managers on how to line up local drug stores, medical societies and industrial houses to pay for the ads."

Many other methods of distributing this propaganda are described in the PM article, but the foregoing is typical.

In the Physicians' pamphlet, as before mentioned, are many extended quotes from the senate committee hearings. One such quote is interesting.

"Senator Murray read excerpts from a WASHINGTON POST editorial supporting the proposal of state medicine. Senator Murray used the POST editorial as a basis for his own suggestion that the legislation should not be opposed merely on the allegation that it was 'Communist or Socialistic'."

Too "Socialistic" For Taft

"The colloquy which followed fairly illustrated the tenor of the hearings under Senator Murray's chairmanship.

"Senator Taft (Yes, of Taft-Hartley fame—the Gentleman from Ohio): I think it is very Socialistic, so I disagree entirely with the editorial. I think that you might have that to start with: if you are going to make a partisan statement, I am going to make one.

"Chairman Murray: 'I did not make a partisan statement.'
Sen. Taft: 'But if you are going to give a rebuke to people who consider it Socialistic, I consider it Socialism. It is to my mind the most Socialistic measure that this congress has ever had before it, seriously.'

"Senator Murray charged that Senator Taft was attempting merely to confuse the minds of the people on a bill that was very worthy and very valuable to this country. Murray also explained that Senator Wagner would be the first witness called in the hearings. However, Taft arrogantly insisted on making statements against the bill at that time. To which arrogant insistence, Murray said, among other things: "You can have an opportunity to make a statement at the proper time."

"Sen. Taft: 'I stand on my right to make a statement in this committee, and now . . .'

"Chairman Murray: 'This hearing will be going on for a month or six weeks, and you will have plenty of time to make your statement.'

"Sen. Taft: 'You have used this as a method of propaganda, of your statement, and I propose to make a statement.'

"Chairman Murray: 'That is a falsehood, that is slander, and that is in line with your general conduct. I resent it . . . and I resent your further interruptions, and I will not consent to them.'

Following further heated debate, Taft was squelched by Murray, and stalked out in high dudgeon. Any reasonable person would naturally think that Senator Murray was merely

trying to conduct the hearings in a fair and reasonable manner, but the Physicians' pamphlet implies that this was evidence of Murray's unfairness.

Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts

Well, the foregoing is probably sufficient quoting. But, brother unionists, when well heeled reactionaries, whether doctors or what have you, start weeping about the sacred rights of poor people, ask yourselves: Do such prosperous gents want something FOR the poor or for themselves? Yes, brother, indeed, and it IS a silly question.

But just what do they want? In order to answer that one, allow us to cite a local example of Butte. We'll call this human example, Dr. Whoozis. Doc Whoozis arrived in what, with a ghastly expression on our faces, we call our fair city, only a few years ago. They say he was quite hard up when he first came here. In fact, in their somewhat rough way, men of this mining town say that the "doc" had part of his posterior exposed (no doubt an exaggeration). But be that as it may, the "doc" was shrewd and ambitious and more than a bit unscrupulous. He knew which hands to shake and how and when. So—we must be brief

—where do we find Doc Whoozis today? Why, we find the "doc" has progressed to a private practice, and not merely one office, but many offices, thousands of patients, thousands of dollars worth of equipment and gadgets, oodles of lesser doctors, his assistants, an expensive, streamlined receptionist, lots of pretty nurses. And the "doc" is the "Big Brass" around the joint. The "doc" has everything that gives. Only the "doc" gives little, the "doc" takes, AND HOW. Now, the "doc" has expensive cars, even a private plane. Now, the "doc" clothes his much developed hinder parts if not in purple, at least in the finest cloth money can buy.

Typical of Opposition

Yes, nice work, if you can get it. And, well, does Doc Whoozis care if there is a public health program set up? You bet the "doc" cares—he will fight like hell against any plan which he thinks might disrupt his way of life, which suits him down to the ground. So multiply Doc Whoozis by thousands and you have the AMA. Simple, No?

But are all of the doctors in the country rich? Are all of them opposed to Public Health Programs,

such as S1320? Of course not. Many doctors would be delighted to practice their profession in connection with such a program. The honest scientists, and there are many in the medical profession, would be glad, indeed, to see medical care available to all. It would be a thousand times better for the doctors, infinitely better for workers and poor people of this country. But the plush bottomed "docs", the guys in the big money don't want it that way.

In 1847 Free Public Schools Were Also "Foreign"

As a fine example of the unprincipled demagoguery utilized by this prosperous bunch of medicos, we might mention that they cite the fact (in an effort to smear the plan) that health plans are "foreign" because, forsooth, such plans are in operation in England, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, and other countries; also, and they intimate, a worse circumstance, national health plans were first discussed by the International Labor Organization (the defunct one, in which the AFL participated). Even the words "labor" and particularly "international" are sinister, you see.

So the plush bottomed medicos in

the AMA will continue, you may be sure, to save the common working stiff from this fate worse than death, a rounded out national health program. When Bob Taft exposes his canine teeth in that famous wolfish grin, why, it is excellent dental work. But don't you stiff aspire to get your grinders refurbished under any communistic health and dental setup, or you'll have the AMA on your tail, the whole pack of wolves in full cry. You just struggle along with your inadequate employer's hospital fee setups, or other inadequate agreements you may be able in some instances to get through negotiation with such employers. Or will you? Or will you get behind some sane, national health program, in spite of the Tafts and the plush bottoms?

What about the poor old miner, dying unattended with silicosis? He has no money to pay for the services that might be supplied by the Doc Whoozises. Why, what's the matter with you, Mac? Don't you know it's much better to die like a man—or something—than to be victimized by such a foreign, communistic, subversive thing as a National Health Program? We must uphold "Our American Way of Life," you dope. Do you want Dr. Whoozis to lose his private plane?

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