

## Senator Douglas Hits 'Sterile Attitude' of AMA on Insurance

The "sterile attitude" of the American Medical Association against compulsory health insurance proposals may be boomeranging by forcing the medical profession to accept some unreasonable system, in the opinion of Senator Douglas, Democrat, of Illinois.

His plan for "catastrophe" insurance payments, to begin after a person has spent 5 per cent of his annual income on doctor and hospital bills is the type of "sensible" program the AMA should support, he declared at a news conference yesterday.

The Illinois Senator explained details of the general plan he announced some time ago. He said he expects to have it in shape next winter for introduction in bill form in Congress.

"Missing the Mark."

Both the comprehensive health insurance measure backed by Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing, and the AMA's opposition, are unsatisfactory to Senator Douglas. He described them as "missing the mark." The so-called Ewing bill, generally regarded as the Truman administration's program, tries to cover too much ground, he complained.

"As for AMA," he added, "I do not question their motives but they are extremely ill-advised to take such a negative attitude in opposing almost every proposal that has been advanced. I hope they examine this proposal of mine and support it."

"It's highly important that the medical profession support a plan in order to have it become law and accepted by the people. I hope the AMA doesn't keep a sterile attitude. The public won't forever take 'no, no, no.' If AMA doesn't support a sensible plan, they may be forced to accept something less sensible."

The Douglas plan resembles, in some ways, suggestions made by Bernard Baruch and former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota. The Illinois Senator said he believes he arrived at the idea independently and that he has not discussed it with administration leaders or AMA representatives.

**Explains Operation of Plan.**

The plan, he explained, operates on the theory that insurance against medical, surgical and hospital bills should make the same basic approach as does insurance of other kinds.

It would confine payments to the "catastrophic class"—that is, expenses incurred after a person or family has been obliged, within a year, to pay out about 5 per cent of annual income on doctor and hospital bills. Thus, a person with a \$3,000 yearly income would be entitled to insurance benefits only on such bills after \$150 had been spent.

Senator Douglas said the system would be financed by a payroll tax of about 1 per cent, or a corresponding levy on incomes of self-employed people. The Ewing bill provides for a 3 per cent tax but covers complete care except dental treatment.

The Senator scoffed at an objection that the plan might be considered "State socialism." People, he said, shouldn't "intoxicate themselves with those words."

**Comments Blue Cross.**

He commended work of the Blue Cross and similar voluntary health insurance organizations but contended they "can't do the whole job."

He recommended, however, that the administration of his proposed system should be "non-governmental." There would have to be definite provisions as to fees, standards and eligibility, but the plan, to be successful, would have to be compulsory, he said. It might be found advisable to have the plan administered by the States "to reduce control from Washington."

Weaknesses of his plan, he commented, are that it might not meet the need for preventive treatment and early diagnosis, and that it could not assure adequate distribution of medical and hospital facilities throughout the country.

## AMA

(Continued From First Page.)

confidence to the educational campaign against Government intervention in health insurance.

**Expenses Have Zoomed.**

While AMA expenses have zoomed to carry the fight against what it calls "socialized medicine," officials said the dues also are needed to keep the organization's head above water in carrying out its other activities.

Dr. Austin Smith, new editor of the AMA Journal, said the educational program "is just one part of the problem." In addition to mounting administrative expenses, scientific work carried out by the AMA through its various councils "must have more help if it is to succeed," he said.

AMA revenues come almost entirely from advertising and subscriptions to the Journal, which has a weekly circulation of about 136,000.

**"Lucky to Break Even."**

Dr. Smith said the organization would be "lucky to break even this year" on its expenses. Another official said income from the publications was not sufficient to meet expenses in 1947 for the first time.

About \$2,225,000 raised through the assessments this year has been kept in a separate account, entirely for use in the "educational campaign," officials said.

While about \$2,050,000 has been allocated for expenses in the "anti-socialism" drive, about \$1,500,000 will have been spent by the end of this year, according to Clem Whitaker, of Whitaker & Baxter, the public relations firm conducting the drive. Most of the money went for literature opposing the compulsory insurance proposal and advertising voluntary insurance plans.

Mr. Whitaker's budget of about \$2,000,000 probably would



**SHOWING THE GROWN-UPS HOW**—Cheryl Ann Chisholm, 5, of Riverdale, Md., continues her walking lessons at the National Guard Armory where work being done for handicapped children is one of the most popular exhibits of the American Medical Association meeting.

—Star Staff Photo.

be set for the drive next year. The increased program, he said, would include voluntary insurance plans as protection against high medical and hospital bills.

Mr. Whitaker said his firm has a two-year contract with the AMA, and that he hoped the campaign "will make such an effect next year that the AMA's fight will be won."

Advocates of the dues proposal argued that payment would tend to draw doctors together in a more cohesive group. While objection was registered to the \$25 "voluntary assessments," officials said about 80 per cent of the AMA members contributed.

Washington's doctors recently took an additional increase in dues, when those of the District Medical Society were increased from \$30 to \$40.

## Truman

(Continued From First Page.)

was not being given under oath. Mr. Truman came to the press headquarters when Mr. Ross made his usual morning trip to brief newsmen on the outlook for the President's day.

He announced, incidentally, that Budget Director Frank Pace would arrive during the day for conferences with the President on the forthcoming budget message. The length of his stay is indefinite.

The President said he never had had a better vacation here and that Mrs. Truman and Miss Margaret Truman also enjoyed their stay, which ended yesterday.

Before Mr. Truman showed up for his "press conference" he walked to the docks to see a couple of groups of his staff off on fishing expeditions.

For nearly two hours yesterday afternoon, Mr. Truman and his aides held a point-by-point discussion of the projected state of the Union message in a conference staged on the lawn of the "Winter White House." It was the first time that the entire group had been together here, and Press Secretary Ross said the session was "very comprehensive and fruitful."

Mr. Ross does not believe that the message will be in final form before the President leaves here December 20.

There will be work, too, on the budget message, and it is rather expected that Budget Director Frank Pace, who holds virtually daily conferences with President Truman in Washington, will come to Key West to talk over the financial situation.

Meantime, the President is mixing pleasure with his work, getting in a daily swim, sunbath and walk. Mrs. Truman and Miss Margaret Truman returned home yesterday.

## U. N.

(Continued From First Page.)

to acquire a sphere of influence or to create foreign controlled regimes within the territory of China and (b) seeking to obtain special rights or privileges within China.

**Entire Problem Deferred.**

The Assembly then adopted a proposal by Cuba, Ecuador and Peru to refer the whole Chinese problem to the year-round Little Assembly with instructions that it report back with recommendations at the 1950 Assembly next September.

This kept before the U. N. China's demands for a world-wide condemnation of Russia and for general non-recognition of the Chinese Red regime. The Latin proposal was accepted by China's chief delegate, T. F. Tsiang, as a face-saving move after it became apparent the Assembly would turn down his own resolution calling for strong action.

The Latin American resolution was approved by a vote of 32 to 5, with 17 abstaining. The Soviet bloc again cast the only opposing votes. The United States finally voted for the resolution after it was amended to provide that the Little Assembly consider any future violations of the principles laid down in the five-power plan.

Maple trees often lose virtually all their foliage in a few hours after a night of sharp frost.

## Handicapped Children Schooled Before Eyes of Thousands Here

Undismayed by the stares of curious eyes and the tumult of jostling thousands all about them, a brave little band of kids are going to school daily in exhibition booths of the American Medical Association's Clinical Session at the National Guard Armory.

They're learning to walk and talk and hear and even laugh—to do all the things that come so naturally to other kids their age.

Their teachers are the gentle teams of medical men and therapists whose careers are devoted to helping the handicapped. The children are regularly enrolled in clinics sponsored by the local chapter of the National Society for Crippled Children.

Cradled in the arms of one of the society's therapists whom he adores, a three-year-old boy, victim of cerebral palsy, went through his lessons. He was learning to reach for food with his mouth and his teacher held an enticing green candy sucker.

## Nerves and Emotions Cause Of Thousands of Headaches

You can blame most headaches on nerves and emotions—and many attacks can be prevented from developing.

Dr. Lester S. Blumenthal, in charge of the "headache clinic" at the George Washington University Hospital, cited these findings to doctors after the study of hundreds of patients.

Addressing a session of the American Medical Association's clinical meeting at the District National Guard Armory, Dr. Blumenthal said the studies showed the large majority of headaches are due to "over-mounting stresses, strains and pressures, which the patient is subjected."

**Must Modify Habits.**

These factors mount until they produce contraction of muscles of the head and neck and increased pulsation of blood vessels in the head. After this point, intensive drug treatment must be used to relieve the severe aches.

To control headache attacks, the physician said, patients "must be taught to recognize what factors in their lives create tension, worry and anxiety, and they must learn to modify their habits in such a way as to live within the limits set by their nervous systems."

The drug, histamine, which dilates blood vessels, can help prevent headaches in "an increasing number of patients being seen," Dr. Blumenthal said. And the combination of a fungus drug called ergot and caffeine, which can be taken by mouth, also is effective, he said.

**Arthritis Discussed.**

In another discussion, doctors were told widespread treatment of arthritis with the widely-publicized hormone, cortisone, is still "a few years off."

Dr. Edward F. Rosenberg, a Chicago scientist who has directed research on cortisone and ACTH, said dramatic results had produced another drug which has produced remission of arthritis, said his greatest worry was that patients will delay present treatments and wait for the new drugs.

But ACTH, he said, probably will remain a research tool because of its unavailability for clinical use. ACTH is a protein produced from the pituitary glands of hogs and horses, and the annual swine production in the country could yield enough of the drug to treat only a few thousand patients, he said.

**Research Under Way.**

For cortisone, which can be synthesized, Dr. Rosenberg had more hope. It now is produced in a costly and complicated process from an acid obtained in ox bile. Research is under way, however, in the use of soy beans, Mexican yams and other products to obtain material which may shorten the process, he said.

Stimulated by experimental results with the two drugs, Dr. Rosenberg said, recent tests had been made on six different steroids, but none were found effective.

The researcher told doctors that under "old fashioned treatments" about 70 per cent of the arthritis

just a few inches from his lips. When he finally reached it, his teacher cheered him and the two of them were really happy. But some in the crowd had to turn away.

A few feet away a curly haired little girl in a pretty blue dress—the kind 5-year-old girls wear to dancing schools—was learning to walk with metal braces on both her legs. Back and forth she walked, holding onto iron railings of a miniature wooden walkway.

Other little kids sat by waiting to take their turns. There were little kids born with cleft palates who were learning to talk and little kids born with defective hearing learning the names of dolls and toy cars.

Among the medical demonstrators at the exhibit are Drs. P. A. McClelland, Thomas A. Christensen, Alfred J. Suraci and John H. Peacock, of Washington; Dr. J. Edmund Bradley, head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland Hospital, and Frances Hillebrandt of Richmond.

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## Douglas Reports Amity At Session With Eccles, Snyder and McCabe

By J. A. O'Leary

Senator Douglas, Democrat, of Illinois today reported an atmosphere of harmony and "fruitful co-operation" prevailed at a conference he arranged in his office to discuss any differences which may exist between the Treasury and some officials of the Federal Reserve System over monetary policy.

Present at the conference this morning were Treasury Secretary Snyder and Marriner S. Eccles, a member and former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who charged recently the Reserve System has been hampered in performing its function in regulating the volume of money and credit by the Treasury's desire to get money as cheaply as possible in managing the public debt.

Also present at the closed-door meeting was Thomas B. McCabe, who succeeded Mr. Eccles as Federal Reserve chairman 10 months ago, and who testified at open hearings last week that there has been "a splendid degree of co-operation" between the Treasury and the Federal Reserve.

**Undecided on New Law.**

Calling in reporters at the end of today's meeting, Senator Douglas, chairman of a House-Senate subcommittee studying the whole field of monetary policy, said the meeting was "very satisfactory, harmonious and extremely cordial."

He added it was "Very fruitful of co-operation between the Treasury and the Federal Reserve," but he refused to go into any detail as to whether new legislation would grow out of the discussion.

When the whole range of monetary and fiscal policy is considered there may be need for some new legislation, Senator Douglas said, but added his mind is still open on the specific question of whether a new law is needed to govern relations between the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board.

The Senator began by stressing the harmony and co-operation in the Federal Reserve System, but when asked if the problems that developed at the hearings had been solved he replied:

"When I was young I used to believe all problems could be solved, but as I get older I have come to believe most problems must be endured."

**Sees Understanding Developed.**

Asked earlier if the meeting developed an understanding that the Treasury will consider Federal Reserve Board advice, Senator Douglas replied, "I think it always has."

In his letter to Senator Douglas last week, Mr. Eccles said the talents and efforts of the men in the Federal Reserve System "are largely wasted." He stated that views of the Federal Reserve Board and its Open Market Committee regarding debt management policies "are seldom sought by the Treasury." The Reserve System has made suggestions on its own initiative to the Treasury in connection with Government financing, but added in his letter, "very often these have not been accepted."

## Last 3 of Noronic Fire Victims Recovering

By the Associated Press

TORONTO, Dec. 8.—Almost three months after they escaped from the blazing lake steamship Noronic, the last three victims of the fire are recovering from their injuries in Toronto hospitals. Three persons are listed as missing and 116 dead have been identified.

Reported "doing well" in hospital today are Robert Adamson of Lorain, Ohio; George Harshman of Cincinnati and Kathleen Morrison of Grosse Point, Mich.

## Weather Report

District of Columbia—Sunny and rather windy with highest temperature in lower 40's today. Clear and colder tonight with low in high 20's in the city and low 20's in the suburbs. Tomorrow fair.

Maryland—Fair and colder with lowest temperature from 20 to 25 degrees in the east and about 15 degrees in the west tonight. Tomorrow fair and cold.

Virginia—Clear and colder with lowest temperature from 25 to 30 degrees in the east and around 20 degrees in the west tonight. Tomorrow fair and continued rather cold.

Wind velocity, 15 miles per hour; direction, west-northwest.

**River Report.**  
(From United States Engineers.)  
Potomac River: cloudy at Harpers Ferry and clear at Great Falls; Shenandoah cloudy at Harpers Ferry.

**Humidity.**  
(Readings at Washington National Airport.)  
Yesterday—Pct. Today—Pct.  
Noon—39 39  
5 p.m.—55 55  
8 p.m.—58 58

**High and Low for Yesterday.**  
High—42 a.m.  
Low—42 at 6:35 a.m.

**Record Temperatures This Year.**  
Highest, 87, on August 11.  
Lowest, 10, on January 30.

**Tide Tables.**  
(Published by United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.)

**The Sun and Moon.**  
Sun, today—Rises, 7:15 a.m.; Sets, 4:46 p.m.  
Sun, tomorrow—Rises, 7:16 a.m.; Sets, 4:46 p.m.  
Moon, today—Rises, 10:10 a.m.; Sets, 8:05 p.m.

**Monthly precipitation (in inches) in the Capital (current month to date).**

January—6.08 3.85 7.83 9.71  
February—3.43 3.76 5.24 6.41  
March—1.94 3.27 10.33 9.39  
April—2.42 3.70 10.94 10.00  
May—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
June—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
July—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
August—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
September—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
October—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
November—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00  
December—2.42 4.13 10.94 10.00

**Temperatures in Various Cities.**

Albuquerque 61 35 Miami 74 66  
Atlantic City 57 39 Milwaukee 61 61  
Baltimore 42 30 New Orleans 61 61  
Boston 42 30 New York 52 26  
Buffalo 42 30 Norfolk 61 61  
Cincinnati 42 30 Oklahoma City 52 26  
Cleveland 42 30 Phoenix 74 61  
Dallas 42 30 Portland 61 61  
El Paso 66 50 Pittsburgh 61 61  
Galveston 61 35 St. Louis 61 61  
Hartford 42 30 Salt Lake City 52 26  
Indianapolis 42 30 San Antonio 61 61  
Los Angeles 61 35 Savannah 61 61  
Louisville 52 30 Tampa 61 61

## The Federal Spotlight

## Civil Service May Recommend Increased Payments to Disabled

By Joseph Young

The Civil Service Commission may recommend to Congress that increased minimum payments be made to Government employees retired because of disability, as well as increased minimum benefits to survivors of deceased Federal workers.

At present, there is no minimum payment fixed, with the result that many employees who have retired because of disability get only a pittance in retirement annuities.

Likewise, in many cases the widows and orphans of Federal employees who die while on the Government payroll get only a small survivorship annuity. In some cases, where an employee had made only a small salary and had only been in the Government for a few years, the monthly payments are as low as \$3 or \$4.

The commission's retirement division is studying the possibility of increasing both disability retirement annuities and survivorship benefits, by establishing a minimum floor on the amounts to be paid.

If the division finds the cost factor won't be too great, it will make a favorable recommendation along these lines to the commission.

**BRER—A new Army regulation states:** "Effective January 1, 1950, the worsted 'Eisenhower' jacket will become obsolete. Also the short overcoat and green trousers. Only the brown felt service cap will be worn."

And with winter coming up, too!

**SLIGHT ERROR—**When Luther Steward, the president of the National Federation of Federal Employees was in Japan recently to help draft its new civil service system, some of his friends reported on him to have his fortune told.

Instead of the ordinary fortune teller, it seems that Japanese often have their fortunes told by canaries. The birds use their beaks to pick up wads of papers, upon which are written individual fortunes.

Evidently the bird made a slight mistake, because Mr. Steward's read:

"Your next confinement will be painless."

**FUROR—A recent Post Office Department directive, paying the way for mail handlers to assume some of the duties of postal clerks, has created a storm of protest among the postal clerks.**

The National Federation of Post Office Clerks, which declares it represents 96,646 postal clerks, announces that it will carry the fight to Congress, if necessary, to get the order rescinded. First, however, the union will confer with Postmaster General Donaldson in an effort to have the order changed.

**E. C. "Roy" Hallbeck, secretary-treasurer of the postal clerks union, declared:** "The livelihood of all postal clerks is at stake. If this order is permitted to stand, it could result in many postal clerks losing their jobs."

Mr. Hallbeck added that the order was contrary to the intent of Congress, asserting that it was never the intention of Congress that mail handlers do clerical or any other type of duties in the Post Office Department.

**GSA—The 331 dismissals ordered for the War Assets Administration was felt throughout the entire General Services Administration the other day, when the reductions-in-force took place.**

This is because, under a Civil Service Commission ruling, War Assets employees in the newly merged GSA who had the neces-

## Major Coal Operators Stand Pat While Lewis Signs Small Firms

By James Y. Newton

John L. Lewis was expected to sign additional soft coal producers to his new United Mine Workers' contract today, but the lines of the major operators apparently still were holding firm against his demands.

The UMW president already has produced 7,340,000 tons of soft coal a year have signed the contract calling for payment into the UMW Welfare and Retirement Fund of 35 cents per ton and a wage to the miners of \$15 a day. That is an increase in welfare royalties of 15 cents a ton and a pay increase of 95 cents per day.

As soon as the operators sign the new agreement, Mr. Lewis permits them to work their mines the normal five days a week. He put both the anthracite and soft coal industries on a three-day week starting Monday. He is using that as a club in the effort to force the operators to sign at a time of year when their profits are highest.

The tonnage signed so far by the UMW still is only a small fraction of the more than 400,000,000 tons produced annually by the members of the union. Mr. Lewis will have to "bag" a big mine owner before he makes appreciable progress toward his goal.

Mr. Lewis said that operators producing slightly more than 5,000,000 tons signed up yesterday. Their properties are located in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, but he did not name the companies.

A major producer who had been reported as ready to accept the new contract terms issued a statement indicating that he had changed his mind. He was Whitener Warner, Jr., president of the Warner Collieries of Cleveland, who talked at length with John Owens, UMW secretary-treasurer.

"After discussing the proposed new contract with Mr. Owens," Mr. Warner said, "I concluded that if any contract is to be made, it should only be signed on an industry-wide basis and that the attempt to conduct negotiations on a company level is impractical."

That is the position now taken by the big associations of operators, the reverse of their stand in other recent years when they were opposed to industry-wide bargaining.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the UMW and the anthracite operators in New York have made little progress toward a contract so far.

Anthracite is used almost exclusively for home heating and the producers, at the peak of their season, are anxious to eliminate the three-day week. But the union has refused to let them work their mines longer.

## Virginia Swine Sales Slated

BLACKSBURG, Va., Dec. 8 (AP).—The annual winter swine sales sponsored by the Virginia Breeder Swine Breeders Association will be held February 8 at Suffolk, February 10 at Winchester and February 14 at Roanoke.

## 14 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

**TIES \$1.50**  
**BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS!**

## FINER SPORTS JACKETS

tailored of hand-woven  
British Shetlands

48.

You get so much more for yourself, you give so much more in satisfaction, when the sports jacket comes from Saltz F Street. For the same \$48 you buy imported British Shetlands, woven by hand with a finish that suggests rare cashmere. Patterns are original and distinctive in flavor, rich in their color blendings.

Camel's Hair Sports Jackets, 55.  
Saxony Sports Jackets, 75.  
Genuine Cashmere, 100 and 115.  
Saltz F Street Slacks, 16.50 to 35.  
Famous British "Daks," 25 to 32.50.



**Saltz F street**  
1341 F STREET