

EDITORIALS

Pitfalls of Socialized Medicine

One of the major issues of the 1976 national political campaigns in the United States will be that of some form of national health insurance.

It's too soon to discuss the merits of the conflicting proposals.

But we have, at this time, one suggestion: None of the candidates for president or Congress should be so foolish as to carry national health insurance a step further and advocate socialized medicine.

If any is tempted, he or she should take a trip to Sweden and see, personally, what the socialization of health care has done to that Scandinavian nation.

A good witness before any hearing on such a proposal would be Dr. Phillip Sandblom, former president of the prestigious University of Lund in southern Sweden who now lives in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dr. Sandblom spoke at a recent annual dinner of the American College of Surgeons, who awarded him an honorary fellowship in 1952. The title of his talk carried a blunt message: "The Tragic Development of Socialized Medicine in Sweden."

His paper, now being circulated among Ogden medical practitioners, recalled how 20 years earlier he had been proud to tell about the Swedish medical care system. It was "high quality" and was "offered to everyone in the country, irrespective of the patient's economic means," he said.

The change to more socialization began in 1955 when a compulsory health insurance program, financed mainly by taxes, was passed by the Swedish government. It covered hospital bills and a major fraction of doctors' bills and drugs and also gave a per diem allowance related to the patient's income.

The combined salary and fee-for-service system that rewarded doctors for their hard work and professional improvement functioned well. Patients received good care and could

choose their own doctors. Dr. Sandblom told the American College of Surgeons.

But it didn't last.

A liberal, socialist government took over Sweden. It immediately began feuding with the medical profession.

By 1960 private rooms within the general hospitals were discontinued and patients lost the freedom to choose their hospital or surgeon.

Ten years later the last residue of private medicine within hospitals was abolished. Physicians and surgeons attempting private practices were taxed so excessively that they had to join the national system, leave the country, exist on a meager income or learn a new profession.

All hospital visits, including laboratory work, X-rays and referrals were to cost seven crowns (less than \$2 U.S.)—about half as much as a hair cut.

As Dr. Sandblom said in an understatement, "this was not apt to increase the respect for medical work or the prestige of the doctors."

All hospital doctors have now become 100 per cent salaried employees with regulated working hours. Capacity and ability are not rewarded. The salary is related only to the time spent in the hospital, with no regard for the kind of work performed or the talent and training of the individual physician or surgeon.

Citizens who contact non-system Swedish doctors receive no reimbursement from the state, despite taxes paid for "insurance."

Hospitals, Dr. Sandblom said, have "become factories... managed by a spreading bureaucracy that hampers initiative and kills the joy of working."

The loss of incentive by professionals, with a resultant change in the young generation's philosophy of life, is the "greatest tragedy," Dr. Sandblom concluded.

What has happened in Sweden should not happen in the U.S.

Stop With Care

Two accidents Sunday — one in Utah, the other in Texas — prove the need for exceptional caution when stopping on a busy highway because of mechanical difficulties.

The Utah accident was on the Beck Street overpass on the Interstate Highway in northern Salt Lake City.

One vehicle had a flat tire. It pulled to the side but apparently not far enough. Another auto struck it in the rear. The fuel tank exploded. The resultant fire welded the two autos together. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries.



Harvey

President Ford tried to curtail food stamp abuses but it is an election year and Congress is disinclined to cut off anything for anybody in an election year.

To the rest of us remain saddled with a cost of \$6 billion a year to subsidize curried food for students and strikers and for some families which have incomes ranging up to \$9,000 a year.

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz says it is the proper function of government to look after the "needs" of the people but government cannot be expected to satisfy their "greeds."

I don't know that what I'm about to relate has happened, I do know that it could have. It is cited only to certify that Americans still believe in Santa Claus.

The welfare client, so the story goes, borrowed a country ham from a local smokehouse. He swiped it is what he did.

SOLD HAM

He took the country ham to a nearby town and sold it to a grocer for \$27. With the \$27 he bought \$80 worth of food stamps — to which he was entitled under his welfare eligibility.

With the \$80 worth of food stamps he bought back the ham for \$29 — and he also bought another \$51 worth of groceries. Then he secretly returned the ham to the smokehouse from which he had "borrowed" it.

The farmer got his ham back: The grocer made a profit. And the slight-of-hand citizen ended up with \$51 worth of groceries.

I doubt that this apocryphal story ever happened as I have told it. I am sure that with this much ingenuity the freeloader

The outcome was different in Corpus Christi, Tex.

One car stalled in an intersection. A dozen friends of the driver attempted to get it going. A careless driver ploughed into the group, killing four and injuring eight.

If a tire goes flat, it's better to ruin what's left of it—and even the rim — by limping well off the road before stopping. If an auto is blocking a lane, flasher warning signals should be turned on and, if possible, a lookout posted — safely on the shoulder — to warn oncoming vehicles.

Butz Feels Needs, Not Greeds, Should Be Met

would surely not be content with \$51 worth of groceries. He would have stolen several hams!

And the only loser in his scheme would be the taxpayer who foots the bill for those food stamps.

Another voice crying in the Washington wilderness expressing anxiety over government spending policies is that of Treasury Secretary William Simon.

Simon considers inflation — largely resulting from federal government extravagance — not just a threat to our nation's economic growth but "a threat to the very survival of the West." He calls inflation "the cruelest hoax ever perpetrated for the expedient purposes of a few at the cost of many."

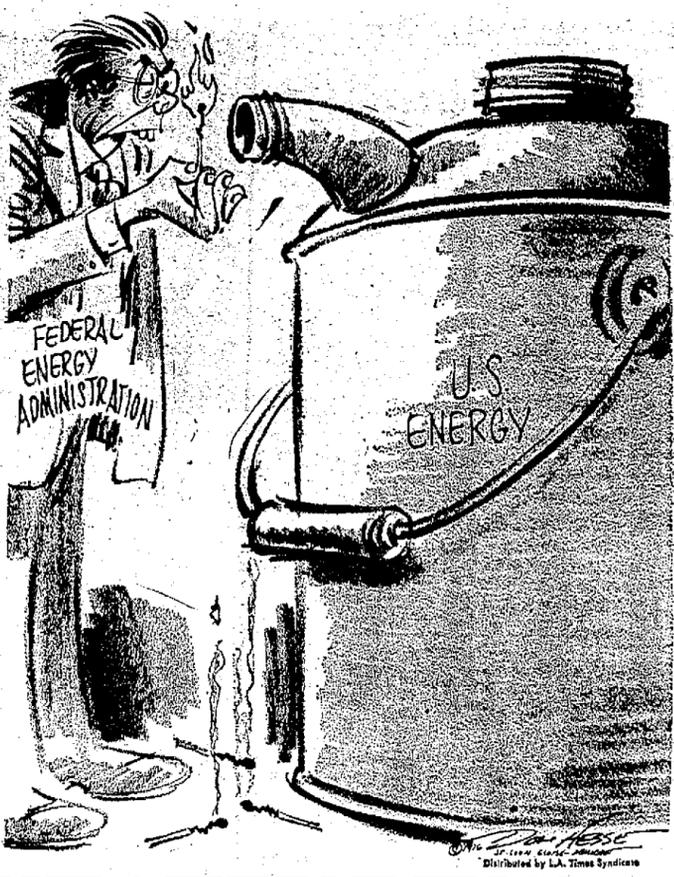
RELATED SUBJECTS

If food stamps and inflation sound like two subjects, they are related.

The cost of living accelerated last month to an annual rate of 7.2 per cent. Your dollars are shrinking more than seven cents a year largely because of the "greeds" Secretary Butz mentioned. The something-for-nothing promised by the politicians has to be paid for by higher debt or higher taxes.

Higher pay without increased production has to be paid for with higher prices. Higher prices mean that each dollar is worth less.

Yet as obvious as this economic principle is, and as graphically as we have seen it demonstrated in the bankruptcy of New York City, Congress has decided this election year that it can buy 20 million votes with your money paying for their food stamps — and that you will sit still for it.



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Soviet Union Heads for Manpower Crisis Within Next Seven Years

By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Barring unforeseen improvements, the Soviet Union is heading for a manpower crisis, which may force the Kremlin to relax its communist discipline and offer the workers more capitalistic incentives.

This is the conclusion of America's top Soviet manpower expert, Dr. Murray Feshbach, who has just completed one of the most important demographic studies ever done on the Soviet Union.

According to Dr. Feshbach's calculations, Russia can expect

a critical manpower shortage by 1983. There is statistical irony in the year. It comes the year before "1984," the time and title of George Orwell's famous satire. Orwell described a Stalinesque police state, whose citizens couldn't make a move without government sanction.

But if Dr. Feshbach's confidential study is correct, the Russian people may be able to loosen the Orwellian grip and gain more freedom in 1983. This is what it may take to overcome the manpower shortage and stimulate productivity.

Dr. Feshbach has based his

conclusions on a painstaking study of Soviet census figures and other obscure documents. The study was commissioned by the Joint Congressional Economic Committee, which will make it public in late September. It was co-authored by Dr. Feshbach and Steven Rapawy.

The Soviet population trends indicate that the population is aging and that there aren't enough young people to pick up the work tools. The European Russians, who have produced most of the skilled workers in the past, are also falling behind the Central Asian minorities in population growth.

The minority races, according to Feshbach, also resist leaving home to work in distant factories and fields. Nor do they want to go to the Chinese border to build up the population for a confrontation with the Chinese.

The 4.5 million-man Soviet army draws off the youth, who need to be trained to fill the middle-level jobs. The housing shortage, with husbands and wives cooped in tiny apartments, has also discouraged women from having babies.

To maintain an adequate work force, each family must produce at least 2.2 children. Soviet families have dropped below this figure in some parts of European Russia.

Many Russian women, accustomed to working, don't want more children. Even the "pronatal" steps now being taken won't produce working-aged children until well into the 1990s.

The manpower crunch will probably hit the farms first, where productivity already has fallen so low that the Soviets must import food to feed the 236 million population.

In short, the Soviet Union won't have the mass workers needed to meet production demands, and a reverse "1984" may hit the country by 1983.



Anderson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Clothing Drive

Editor, Standard-Examiner:

I would like to thank the many people who contributed to the clothing drive for migrants throughout the Ogden area.

Your kindness will prove to make life more comfortable for these migrant children, and it is deeply appreciated. Most of the clothing that was donated was from English-speaking people, which only goes to prove that, no matter what language one speaks, we are all progressing for a deeper understanding of people.

Special thanks to the Ogden Elks Auxiliary for the \$100 donation to buy needed items for the children.

Tillie H. Gonzales  
Migrant Education Recruiter  
Weber County

'Left His Coat'

Editor, Standard-Examiner:

This unfortunate, unhappy and emotion filled episode involving Representative Howe and the police decoy prostitutes seems to have a parallel in the Biblical narrative of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. (Gen. 39) However there is this significant difference in the Allen Howe episode as narrated, and little Joe's story as told by the Biblical chroniclers: "Joseph fled and left his coat in the harlot's arms."

Had the congressman simply filed a general denial and proven previous good character we might suspect a police set-up and malicious prosecution, but he doth protest too much. It's the old story of Adam reitold which not only damns the woman, but denies the apple. "O' what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

It seems that the Lord expects little of even the best men when subjected to beauty's blandishments, as evidenced in the Bible by His partiality to various princes and patriarchs who, in the matters of gallantry, have been regarded as pace-setters. However, if the congressman is finally found guilty as charged, let it be through the due process concept, and not by emotional and political expediency.

A more charitable attitude on the part of those who are demanding the political scalp of the accused would surely ease the galling burden thrust upon

The Standard-Examiner welcomes letters from its readers on topics of current interest. Letters should be addressed: Editor, Standard-Examiner, Box 551, Ogden, Utah 84402. Letters should not exceed 200 words and all letters are subject to condensation. No more than one letter per month will be printed from any individual. Letters violating rules of good taste and laws of libel will be rejected. All must be signed and include, for verification, writer's address and telephone number.

the Howe family. It appears that this mass condemnation of the beleaguered congressman is not calculated to pay very large dividends in the interesting ultimate; that a man may be full of faith, and pregnant with prophecy and chock-a-block with knowledge, and redolent of religious mystery, that he may leak sanctification in the musical accents of an angel and still be "nothing."

To Congressman Howe, from one who has sined enough to have a forgiving heart, I would say that the burden of truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth rests squarely on your shoulders.

L. G. (Lou) Wyatt,  
Ogden.

IT HAPPENED . . . 20 & 50 YEARS AGO



AUGUST 13, 1956  
A well-known Ogden educator, Christian Henry Anderson, 74, died at his home of a heart attack. Mr. Anderson retired in 1947 as chairman of the social science division at Weber College.

Prince of the Roy Days big celebration was Kirk Douglas Weaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weaver. The young princess was Gayle King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darold King. Together they reigned over the baby show.

Claude Malan of Ogden High, newly elected president of the Red Cross Junior Council in the Weber County Chapter, said that a membership drive would be undertaken in the near future.

Jim Carter of South Ogden was photographed displaying a five-pound German Brown trout pulled out of the Weber River. Mr. Carter said he landed the 26-inch beauty just above Morgan.

AUGUST 13, 1926  
Dr. Edward Maurice Conroy, 68, prominent physician and former mayor of Ogden, died at the Dee Memorial Hospital. Dr. Conroy had been a member of the Ogden City school board for a number of years.

Members of Weber camp No. 74, Woodmen of the World, were making preparations for a picnic to be held in Huntsville. On the committee in charge were G. Van Holst, Harold Heywood and James Lowe.

Descendants of Emer Harris and Martin Harris met in reunion at Lorin Farr Park. More than 100 persons were present. N. J. Harris of Ogden conducted the exercises.

Miss Vinette Parry, cost accountant in the Ogden bureau of public roads offices, left with her mother, Mrs. W. H. Parry, for a three weeks' visit in Seattle and other northwestern cities.



Taylor

Soviets Jail War Heroes For Dissent

By HENRY J. TAYLOR  
Able American Ambassador to the Soviet Union Walter J. Stoessel Jr. (we are immensely fortunate to have him in Moscow) reports to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that Great Red Army Gen. Pyotr G. Grigorenko is alive.

Gen. Grigorenko is the proud wearer of nearly every Soviet military honor. But for seven years even his family has not known if he was dead.

In the U.S.S.R., putting Soviet citizens into a madhouse is a notorious way to deal with dissenters. Gen. Grigorenko had protested the Soviet Aug. 20, 1968, reinvansion of Czechoslovakia. The Kremlin had this Soviet war hero judged insane in 1969. For if the Kremlin wants you to be guilty, you are guilty — of it makes you so.

Gen. Grigorenko was, of course, sane. But the KGB secret police seized him in the middle of the night near Moscow's Kinetisty Bridge and confined him secretly in its Serbsky Institute. He vanished.

Ambassador Stoessel finds that after about a year there the Kremlin transferred Gen. Grigorenko to Chernyakhovsk Hospital. This is a psychiatric prison on the Baltic near the city of Kaliningrad.

GHASTLY ASYLUM

Ambassador Stoessel reports that the KGB then took Gen. Grigorenko from Chernyakhovsk Hospital to the ghoulish insane asylum at Stolbovaya, 30 kilometers from Moscow. Our ambassador finds him there — with no name. This war-hero is a nonperson, like so many Soviet leaders before him.

He is presently 69. The Soviet general once looked as though he could straighten horseshoes and tear telephone books with his bare hands. But his health is shattered. His eyes are dull as pebbles; his eyeglasses thick and mottled. He gazes around him, dazed as a hammered steer in a slaughterhouse, waiting for the next blow to fall. He walks with a shuffle and his backbone is curved like a bow.

Ambassador Stoessel finds, in addition, that the Kremlin has arrested still another Soviet war hero: Gen. Yofin Davidovich. He is charged with creating "antistate literature," whatever that may mean, and is being held in prison at Minsk.

"Blat" is a generic Russian term for "influence." Both generals had "blat" — but they

took the risk of the high-wire dancer in Nietzsche's "Zarathustra" who walked over the heads of his peers and fell.

Some years ago the Mexican government expelled Charge d'Affairs Dimitri Diakonov, along with four other Soviet "diplomats" from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. Mexico discovered all five were building a spy ring.

The Kremlin penalizes failure. Ambassador Stoessel finds that Diakonov is still in Moscow's Butirki Prison.

The British government, fed up with the Soviet espionage rings in England and saying so in a scathing official proclamation a few years ago, expelled 90 Soviet agents on a single day.

LIVING DEAD

Ambassador Stoessel finds the entire 90 are still in prison. They are at Alma Ata, deep in the Siberian tundras — part of the great Soviet legion of the living dead.

I have been often to our U.S. Embassy in Budapest, located on Szabadsag Ter (so-called Freedom Square); a weather-beaten building with a creaky elevator. Persecuted by the Hungarian government, the late Josef Cardinal Mindszenty took refuge there for a full 15 years.

Through our Budapest Embassy and with immense dedication, Ambassador Stoessel located the former chief of the Hungarian AVH secret police. Years ago the Soviet KGB in Budapest, for reasons unknown, locked him up before kidnapping Britisher Horace Greville, wanted in Moscow in the famous Oleg Penovsky espionage case.

The former AVH chief is at Szolnok, Hungary — still in prison.

Our ambassador has also determined sailor Simas Kudirka's whereabouts. He is Lithuanian and you may recall that U.S. Coast Guard officials, in an inexcusable lapse, scandalously allowed Soviet thugs to board a U.S. cutter at sea when sailor Kudirka jumped aboard to ask asylum. Soviet bully boys boarded the U.S. cutter, beat Kudirka senseless, and hauled him back to their Soviet ship.

Kudirka is in prison at Vilna — still undergoing "interrogation" on treason charges.

The Soviet leopard has not changed its spots.



Braden

IRS 'Special Service' Probe Never Finished

By TOM BRADEN

WASHINGTON — Sen. Walter Mondale touched a gnawing concern in the minds of a lot of people with his answer to the first question on the written examination which Jimmy Carter required him and other vice presidential possibilities to undergo.

"Have your federal and state returns been the subject of any audit, investigation or inquiry at any time?" That was the question. Mondale answered as follows:

"Yes. There was a routine IRS audit in 1971 of my 1969 return. We always suspected but never proved that the audit resulted from my being placed on Nixon's enemies list."

According to Rep. Bella Abzug of New York, there are tens of thousands of people in this country who feel just like Mondale. They suspect but can't prove that they are the victims of Richard Nixon's vengeance.

BROKE NO LAWS

Ms Abzug is hearing from those who were politically active against Nixon or against the war in Vietnam or belonged to groups considered extremely left- or right-wing. They broke no laws. They merely exercised their constitutional right to speak out. They want to know whether speaking out resulted in subsequent tax audits which robbed them of time, money in accountants' fees and peace of mind.

Ms Abzug doesn't know the answer to their questions, but she continues to press the Internal Revenue Service for disclosure of the names of those on whom its Special Service Staff compiled a dossier because somebody at the FBI or in the White House or the Congress considered them bothersome types.

The IRS Special Service Staff was formed in the late Johnson years under pressure from Sen. John McClellan of Arkansas and others who wanted an IRS crackdown on people who were giving money to those considered black extremists. Eventually Special Services

compiled dossiers on about 11,000 people, of whom, according to IRS Commissioner Donald Alexander, only a few hundred were referred to field offices for audit.

If Alexander is right, then the suspicions of tens of thousands of Americans are wrong. But if Alexander is right, why won't he notify the 11,000 as Abzug wants him to do?

Clearly, as she points out, the expense of doing so is a drop in the bucket compared to the money it cost to compile the names and dossiers in the first place.

Alexander's continued presence in the Ford Administration is a perfect example of what Jimmy Carter means when he refers to the Nixon-Ford Administration.

BEBE'S VOICE

The commissioner was appointed by Richard Nixon and he was strictly a White House choice. His nominal boss, Secretary of the Treasury George Shultz, was not even consulted. Moreover, the decision that Johnny Walters, Alexander's predecessor, should go and that he should succeed him came immediately after Bebe Rebozo, Richard Nixon's close friend, had complained to the White House that he was about to be made the subject of a tax investigation. Was it only coincidental that IRS agents were not permitted to interview Rebozo until after Walters had left and Alexander took over?

Alexander says he got rid of the Special Services Staff as soon as he learned about it. In fact, the existence of the staff was revealed by Time magazine, at which point there was nothing to do but get rid of it. And, at the same time he got rid of "Special Services," Alexander abolished another staff which was conducting an investigation of Nixon's great ally, the Teamsters Union.

It is a commonplace that the structure of the American government rests eventually upon the faith of its citizenry in the fairness of tax collection.