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Federal Thought Control A Challenge to American Liberties and Freedom

VIRGIL M. NEWTON, JR.*
TAMPA

It is generally customary for a dinner speaker to tell a lot of funny stories. I know a lot of stories, but I'm not going to bore you with them. Time is limited and I have a most important subject to discuss with you.

You doctors have done a magnificent job in getting out and working in politics in the last three or four years. You have learned what Plato said two thousand years ago and I quote:

The penalty that people pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by people worse than themselves.

But yours has been a selfish interest. You have been interested in politics only from the standpoint of socialized medicine. You have ignored the gradual infringement of personal rights guaranteed by the American Constitution on all fronts of government. You have become alarmed only when the ever-grasping politicians, with an eye to more patronage and more boondoggling, finally turned their greedy eyes to your field of medicine.

Silent on Other Moves

When President Truman last year issued an executive order giving the heads of the 2,000 federal agencies and bureaus the right to censor any news and any facts about our government, under the shallow pretense of national security, you said not a word.

When the public officials of Louisiana prosecuted five newspapermen for the sin of printing the truth about gambling in that state, not a medical society passed a resolution condemning this trampling of Constitutional rights.

You remained silent throughout the *Tampa Tribune's* fight to force the Florida State Tuberculosis Board to open its meetings to the public and conduct the people's business in the open, even though any state medical board is the first step down the road to socialized medicine.

You did not realize that if the freedom of the press and freedom of speech are curtailed or controlled in any form or fashion by the government—and there are a hundred fights going on over this principle in this country right this minute—then you will get socialized medicine, regardless of what you as individuals or as a group do about it. You did not realize that your right to practice depends on and is forever intertwined with your right to know the truth about your government.

I propose to prove to you here tonight that freedom of the press is not some high-sounding theory through which the newspaper publisher makes a lot of money. I propose to prove that it is your right and if you, as citizens, permit it to be abused in any way by the politicians, then you as doctors will find yourselves taking orders from the government, not only as to which patients you should treat, but also how you should treat them.

Methods of Control

Our federal government today employs two methods in the attempt to control the press. They are:

- 1. Direct and outright censorship. The best example of this is the censorship of income taxes. There is no need for me to rehash here all the scandals that have been developed in Washington behind the cloak of secrecy and which have been aired in our newspapers during the last few weeks.
- 2. Propaganda, which is nothing more and nothing less than attempted thought control. And it is in this field that our government has waged its campaign for socialized medicine.

Both methods are necessary to a dictator and a police state. I would like to quote to you a statement made by a brave Argentine Congressman, Mauricio L. Yadarola, who appealed in 1950 to his people to overthrow Dictator Peron. Mr. Yadarola said:

^{*}Managing Editor, Tampa Morning Tribunc.
Presented at the annual dinner, Florida Medical Association,
April 29, 1952.

And what propaganda should a state put out? In a democratic government, none; because the only propaganda is the good work of the government; but in totalitarian regimes the people must be fooled about the work of the government and the virtues of the regime, and to do this their ears must be bombarded continually until the lie is accepted as the truth.

Ideologies thrive only through propaganda. Modern government press agentry, as we know it in America today, came into its own in the American government in the dark days of the early thirties, then flowered into luxuriant bloom first in the New Deal, then in the Fair Deal. Men like Washington and Jefferson did not need press agents because they dealt in simple truths.

Today, according to the Congressional Record, the federal government is spending \$100,000,000 a year for its press releases, prepared by 50,000 government press agents, and \$200,000,000 a year for the printing of these releases. That is a total of \$300,000,000 a year for federal propaganda.

This propaganda, put out under the guise of government news, is a violation of federal law. Section 201, title 18, of the U. S. Code, in plain legal language, forbids the use of federal funds in any manner designed to bring pressure on Congress for any legislation.

How It Works

In 1945, President Truman sent a message to Congress calling for a national health insurance program, which was nothing more than socialized medicine. Shortly afterwards, Thomas Parran, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, sent a letter of instructions to all employees of that government agency. One paragraph of that letter read as follows:

Every officer of the Public Health Service will wish to familiarize himself with the President's message and will be guided by its provisions when making any public statement likely to be interpreted as representing the official views of the Public Health Service.

Later Dr. Herman Hilleboe, an official of the Public Health Service, was called as a witness before a House of Representatives Committee investigating government propaganda and quizzed as to why the propaganda issued by his agency supported socialized medicine as embodied in the pending health insurance bill.

Dr. Hilleboe replied:

We would naturally give emphasis to that, because that is why we are in the government. Otherwise, we should get out of the government.

This is a strange concept coming from a public servant of a so-called Democracy. Dr. Hilleboe implied that if you do not favor socialized medicine, then you have no business in the government. He further implied that it was perfectly all right for a government official to spend taxpayers' funds in pushing our republic down the road to socialism, even though Congress at no time approved any policy favoring socialized medicine or had appropriated funds for such propaganda.

It's All in the Records

The pages of the Congressional Record are crammed with documentary evidence of the 10-year propaganda effort of our federal government to foist socialized medicine upon the public, regardless of whether the public wanted it or not. This campaign to promote the national health insurance bill was sparkplugged by the Social Security Board but also was materially aided and abetted by the Public Health Service, the Children's Bureau, the Office of Education, the U. S. Employment Service and the Department of Agriculture.

Over the years, hundreds and hundreds of pamphlets, booklets and press releases were issued by these six federal agencies, all painting in wonderful colors the beauties of socialized medicine. Not one pamphlet or press release was issued pointing up the evils of state medicine as practiced by the German government under Hitler or socialized medicine as practiced in Great Britain today. One pamphlet issued by the Public Health Service even went so far as to advise its recipients:

You can write a letter to the Readers' Column of your local newspaper, tell your editor why the readers of the paper should back the national health insurance.

Harry J. Becker, health consultant of the Children's Bureau, was asked by a Congressional investigating committee if he gave both sides of the question of compulsory health insurance.

"I don't know what you mean by both sides," replied Mr. Becker.

Oscar Ross Ewing, Federal Administrator of Social Security, is the master propagandist of a government of and by propaganda. He admitted to a Congressional investigating committee that he has no less than 65 full-time press agents on his payroll. And when Rep. Clarence Brown, of Ohio, asked him what right he had in propagandizing in favor of the President's compulsory medical insurance program, which is socialized medicine, Ewing airily replied: "It is not only my right"

J. FLORIDA M., SEPTEMBER, 19

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but my duty." All of which may explain why President Truman twice sought to elevate him to a cabinet job in charge of the nation's health, education and security.

J. FLORIDA M.A. SEPTEMBER, 1952

Classic Whitewash

In March 1950, the House Buchanan Committee investigating lobbying activities asked the U.S. General Accounting Office for a report on a four of Europe taken by Ewing and a selected staff of FSA assistants between Dec. 1, 1949 and Jan. 17, 1950. The Comptroller General, in turn, asked Ewing for a statement. That statement was a classic in whitewash. Ewing told the Comptroller General that his mission was "an official survey approved in advance by President Truman." The Comptroller General, in turn. passed along Ewing's statement to Congress with the observation, "There is no information readily available to this office which indicates the facts to be other than reported." Congress did exactly nothing and the cost of Ewing's European junket to the American taxpayers still remains a deep,

The junket, itself, was a complete triumph for socialized medicine. From London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Stockholm, Rome and Tel Aviv, the press and radio reported thousands of glowing words from the Ewing medicine show. On his return to this country, New York newspapers quoted Ewing, "I come home with even greater confidence in President Truman's proposal for national health insurance in the United States."

The "Health Workshops"

The federal propaganda campaign for socialized medicine was built around what the bureaucrats called the "Health Work Shops." The first organization meeting to form the "Health Work Shops" was held in Washington, Nov. 2, 1945. Twelve persons attended — ten of them full-time employees of the Public Health Service, the Social Security Board and the Department of Agriculture. Subsequently, "Health Work Shops" were held in Chicago, St. Paul, Jamestown, N. D., and Denver, Col. Eighty persons attended the St. Paul "Shop," of which 17 were full-time government employees representing seven bureaus. Ninety-eight attended at Jamestown, 18 of whom were federal employees.

Rep. Forest A. Harness, of Indiana, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Publicity and Propaganda, which investigated the "Health Work Shops" had this to say about them:

Not only are men and women paid substantial salaries in their federal positions for their full-time activities in other fields, but in many instances traveling expenses and incidental costs of these pressure-group meetings are paid out of the funds of the federal agencies.

The Committee has, for example, a report from the General Accounting Office, showing that various federal agencies paid out a total of \$1,950 in traveling expenses of federal employees to and from the Jamestown Health Work Shop. This conference took 18 federal officials away from their desks for a total of 126 man days.

Another report from the General Accounting Office shows that the federal government paid almost \$5,000 in traveling expenses of federal employees for a series of five Health Work Shop conferences and planning meetings held throughout the country before our investigation began.

Plan Was Simple

The propaganda plan of the "Health Work Shops" was simple. A dozen or more of the federal security officials, thoroughly embued with the theory of socialized medicine, would meet with several score carefully selected persons in a given area, always at taxpayer expense. Our public servants would carefully school their selected guests in the general art of conducting meetings, carrying on discussions and in persuading people that they cannot live without socialized medicine. These selected guests in turn, were urged to organize their own meetings and to spread the word in such fashion that a wave of pro-socialized medicine public opinion, even though it be false, would be generated and would sweep across the country and engulf Congress.

Literature prepared by the Social Security Board and pamphlets and booklets published by the CIO, the AFL and the Physicians' Forum, a propaganda agency for the national health insurance bill, would be mailed to the special guests at the "Shops." The Social Security Board literature bore such interesting titles as "Technic for the Organization of Citizen Groups," "Formation of Pressure Groups," and "Methods of Bringing About Group Action." Many of the CIO and other outside pamphlets were mailed from government offices at taxpayer expense. In submitting one pamphlet to the Subcommittee on Publicity and Propaganda, Counsel Bow said: "It is apparent from the attached summary, that this pamphlet and material for printing for compulsory health insurance plan, to be put out by the CIO, was prepared and edited by the Chief of Division of Coordination Studies, Social Security Board."

One Witness Reports

E. F. Engebretson, executive secretary of the North Dakota State Medical Association, was not invited to the Jamestown "Health Work Shop" but crashed it, anyway. When called as a witness before the Subcommittee on Publicity and Propaganda, he testified as follows:

It was stated by Mr. Becker that the Government was interested in establishing such a demonstration project in North Dakota and in Arizona, which states, because of their normal below-average income, would have great need for comprehensive medical care on a federal hasis.

The proposition he made was utterly amazing; that is, to me, particularly in view of the fact that the last session of Congress refused even to report out of committee the health bill. He enumerated the following list on the blackboard of services which he promised would be available in North Dakota without any cost to the state whatsoever:

(1) Locating children in need of medical care; (2) Diagnosis of all pregnant mothers and infants through the age of 21; (3) Treatment of pregnant mothers and all children through the age of 21; (4) Preventive service and periodic checkups; (5) Immunization; (6) Prenatal clinics; (7) Child-health clinics; (8) Hospital care maternity and child to age of 21; (9) Public health nursing; (10) Mental hygiene for children with behaviour problems; (11) Neurotics; (12) Dental care for maternity cases and all children to the age of 21.

He stated that, for this part of the program, they have adequate unallocated funds in Washington; and that they could see to it that North Dakota had sufficient money to cover 100 per cent of these items, stating that the state would not be required to match the funds in any way.

Mr. Becker's Story

The Mr. Becker, to whom Engebretson referred, was Harry J. Becker, of the U. S. Children's Bureau, which is an agency under Ewing's Federal Security Administration. He was called to the witness stand before the committee right after Engebretson and quizzed by Representative Harness. After stuttering over several questions, Becker finally admitted, and I quote:

I did state that federal funds were available for maternal and child-health purposes, and the listing of services that was read into the testimony were elements of a comprehensive program for mothers and children in any community; and I did give those to the conference; and I did say to the conference that these services could be financed from public funds. I did not suggest that federal funds were the only source of financing this demonstration. I suggested state funds and local funds, and I also suggested integrating voluntary prepayment plans with such a comprehensive over-all community program.

However, it is not my intention to convey the idea that North Dakota is the Federal Security Bureau's horizon. It's too big for that, and world rule is its apparent aim.

In 1946, one Dr. B. M. Davis, a member of the staff of the U. S. Public Health Service, which is one of Ewing's bureaus, was temporarily detached from his government job in Washington and sent to England. There he spent 18 months, devoting all his working time to the task of assisting in perfecting legislation for the labor government in England for the complete socialization of all hospital, medical and dental care in that country.

In reply to a query from me, Ewing carefully pointed out that this junket originated before he became Security Administrator. Then he said:

The Public Health Service sent one of its commissioned officers to Great Britain early in 1947. This assignment was for the sole purpose of preparing a factual account of the British Health Service, without in any way passing judgment on the desirability or feasibility of the plan — which did not go into effect until July 1948.

This so-called "factual account," written by a man prejudiced for socialized medicine, was carried in a 40-page booklet, "Public Health Reports," Feb. 11, 1949, which was paid for by the American taxpayers, and it described minutely the operations of socialized medicine in Britain. What could be better propaganda for socialized medicine than this?

Dr. Davis, the author, is the son of Michael M. Davis, chairman of the executive committee of the Committee for the Nation's Health, which perhaps is the most conspicuous lay organization agitating for socialized medicine in the United States. And Representative Harness arose in the House and declared that "the Davis father long has been a co-worker with Messrs, Arthur J. Altmeyer, U. S. Commissioner of Social Security, and Isadore S. Falk, director of research and statistics in the Social Security Board, in the national and international agitation for socialized medicine."

England Went Whole-Hog

It is noteworthy to pause here and consider that the labor government of England is the first in all history to go whole-hog into socialized medicine, giving all its people free medical and dental care from gout to falling dandruff. Lenin proposed it for Communistic Russia but canny Stalin, with perhaps a better knowledge of human nature, hung some stipulations on communistic medicine.

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here and consider England is the first into socialized medimedical and dental ndruff. Lenin prosia but canny Stalin, ge of human nature, mmunistic medicine. A Russian worker gets 50 per cent cash value on his illness only after two years of uninterrupted work in the same industrial unit; 60 per cent, 80 per cent and 100 per cent if he works there three, six and more years. A Russian woman wins motherhood health privileges only if she has worked at least seven months in the same plant. Stalin, Molotov and the other high ranking Russian bureaucrats, however, can ail to their heart's content in luxury, including richly endower sanatoria and rest homes in the Caucasus and Crimea.

Bismark introduced socialized medicine to the modern world in 1884, but he limited it to worthy workers. Pure socialized medicine, like pure socialism, never has worked in the world, perhaps because man's nature never has changed since he first emerged from a cave. It is perhaps comforting to note that Emperor Diocletian, who by the way was the first man in written history to try out government price controls, was chased out of his Roman empire in 301 when he accumulated more recipients of state welfare than taxpayers. And that King Henry IV, of France, who first coined the "chicken in every pot" phrase, in the sixteenth century, was assassinated.

Set Sights on Japan

Our U. S. security officials tried to introduce socialized medicine in conquered Japan. The records of the "Tokyo Health Mission" are written plainly in the Congressional Record. On June 14, 1947, William H. Wandel, Chief of the Program Division, Bureau of Unemployment Security, who had been appointed chief of the Social Insurance Division of the Public Health and Welfare Section of the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers in Tokyo, wrote as follows to Director of Research Falk of the Social Security Board in Washington:

We think that our need is for someone who is primarily not so much an economic analyst as one versed in health insurance. Health insurance is the major field of social security in Japan . . . Permanent revision requires amalgamating National Health Insurance with Health Insurance on a compulsory basis.

The "Tokyo Health Mission," composed of two men from the Public Health Service, one from the Social Security Board, and one from the Federal Housing Authority, left for Japan on Aug. 28, 1947. After a quick snrvey of the country, it drew up a set of recommendations calling for compulsory socialized medicine, right under the banner of General MacArthur's victorious American army. The General took one look

at the recommendations and rushed them to the American Medical Association at Chicago for consideration and advice. And there the recommendations died a natural death. By that time, Congress had been alerted and the "Tokyo Health Mission" exploded into exactly nothing, even though it was a good, slick try by the Social Security Bureau.

I queried Ewing about this, too, and again he said the project was organized before his regime as Security Administrator, although I noted from the records that the junket left this country 10 days after he took office. Ewing said:

At the request of General Douglas MacArthur, a mission was sent to Japan, under War Department auspices and at its expense, to evaluate and make recommendations to the Japanese Diet on their existing social security laws, including the Japanese national health insurance law of 1926. On July 3, 1948, General MacArthur publicly announced that he had accepted the formal report of the mission and that the group had carned the thanks of the Allied Nations for the time and assistance they so generously gave.

A Different Story

Under ordinary circumstances and on the face of it, Ewing might have gotten away with this smooth explanation. But unfortunately—or fortunately, depending on the way you look at it—there is in the Congressional Record a letter from Representative Harness, chairman of the Subcommittee on Publicity and Propaganda, to Chairman John Taber of the House Appropriations Committee. This letter, written after Representative Harness' committee had investigated most thoroughly the "Tokyo Health Mission," made the following charges:

- 1. That the health mission to Japan was composed entirely and exclusively of men long identified in the public record as advocates and proponents of socialized medicine not only in the United States but throughout the world.

 2. That the real purpose of this mission is to lay the groundwork for a system of socialized medicine in Japan.
- 3. That the scheme for such a mission originated in the Division of Research and Statistics in the Social Security Board in Washington, and nowhere else.
- That the nominal request for the mission was engineered through the General Head-quarters of the Supreme Commander in Tokyo by federal employees sent from Washington for that particular purpose.
 That General Douglas MacArthur does not
- 5. That General Douglas MacArthur does not favor and does not approve any plan to establish compulsory socialized medicine in Japan.
- 6. That the dispatch of this mission to Tokyo is a gross misuse of public funds.

is a gross misuse of public funds.

 That the real purpose of the mission was not to assist Japan in working out her basic problems in health and welfare, but to force upon that country a compulsory system of socialized medicine,

Active in Other Branches

The same processes of destroying individual liberty and private enterprise through insidious propaganda are going on in other branches of our federal government. The Department of Agri--culture, for instance, has gone all out for the Brannan Plan, which is nothing less than socialized farming. The Federal Housing Authority, through propaganda, seeks always, at taxpayer expense, to expand public housing. And need I remind that all housing in Communist Russia The Departbelongs to the government. ment of Interior, through propaganda, has sought to trod ruthlessly on the rights of individuals in its ever-expanding irrigation and reclamation projects, which are socialistic, any way you look at them. The Department of State, in its eagerness to spread our socialistic dollars around the world, hit new heights in propaganda to sell the American people on the beauties of the "something for nothing" philosophy in the Marshall Plan. Even our Department of Defense joined the propaganda parade, spending thousands of the taxpayer dollars to promote and sell universal military training to the Congress through the people. There are some who will tell you that the two essential requisites for a socialistic or police state are universal military training and socialized medicine.

You perhaps are wondering why you haven't read of all this in your newspapers. It is partly due to the curse of bureaucracy. American goverminent has mushroomed into tremendous proportions. No one newspaper or group of newspapers could possibly cover in detail all of the 2,000 federal agencies and bureaus. Federal press

agents are absolutely necessary to assemble the facts of government and to transmit those facts to the people. But unfortunately, many of our federal press agents have been too busy with propaganda to deal in facts. Now, on top of it all, President Truman, by executive order, has granted the legal right to the heads of all federal agencies to censor the facts about the people's business.

Correction is Possible

What is the answer? It was simple back in the thirties when Roosevelt first steered this Republic away from the honest road of Constitutional government. It is difficult today when Harry Truman can, with one scratch of his political pen, simultaneously embrace the CIO while he seizes an entire private industry. But it can be done. I need only to point to the gallant comeback of the South from the ashes of the conqueror's carpetbag government to a position where today it is sounding a clarion call to the rest of the nation to return to the principles of the American Constitution, the greatest document of free government ever devised by man. It can be done, but it will require all of the intelligence, earnest effort, and absolute unselfishness on the part of every patriotic citizen.

I conclude by quoting to you the defiant message that Henry W. Grady, the famed editor of the Atlanta Constitution, shouted to the North as he stood in the ashes of the conquered South. Mr. Grady said:

> If there is any human force that cannot be withstood, it is the power of banded intelligence and responsibility of a free community. Against it, numbers and corruption cannot prevail. It cannot be forbidden in the law or divorced in force. It is the inalienable right of every free community - and the just and righteous safeguard against an ignorant or corrupt suffrage. It is on this, sir, that we rely in the South.

The Scientific Department of The Journal

Reflects the Experience of You and Your Colleagues

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