"Medical dictatorship" was charged today by United States Senator J.
Howard McFadden, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, in a statement
directed at the American Medical Association opposition to the pay-as-you-go
national health insurance plan.

Senator McFadden charged that physicians who did not agree with the AMA
stand in opposition to the Truman health program were being deprived of an opportu-
nity to express themselves. Text of the statement follows:

"The American Medical Association is engaged in raising a slash fund of
$3,000,000 to contest the Fair Deal health program. They have another billion
dollars contributed by the drug concerns who support the National Physicians
Committee, an anti-health insurance lobby 'front'.

"These groups are currently engaged in building a lobby organization that
will put the real estate lobby to shame.

"Already through state medical associations allied with the AMA, pressure
is being placed on doctors who may oppose the lobbying actions. Physicians invited
to speak before medical associations on scientific subjects having nothing to do
with the matter of health insurance are having their invitations canceled when
they indicate they do not agree with the political activities of the AMA.

"This is medical dictatorship at its worst.

"The AMA has also sought to gag the statements of British physicians
visiting this country who made honest reports on the successful workings of the
insurance plan for health in Britain.

"This gag rule of the medical boxes drew criticisms of one British surgeon
who asked in astonishment when he was threatened by the AMA, "Why shouldn't I
make such statements? They're true and you do have free speech in this country I
understand."

"The AMA has adopted another attitude of dictatorship as practised in
Nazi Germany and in Communist Russia: the belief that if a big enough lie is told
cenough it will be generally accepted as the truth.

"This is evidenced by such statements as 'socialized medicine' and 'you'll
have to eat your 'hard commitmesses' consent' to get medical aid under the Truman
plan."
"They paint a horrendous picture of having to go to some clinic and stand in line like the poor slob clinic treatment that now exists. This they say will be the case if the health insurance plan is adopted.

"It is not true.

"The facts are that the Fair Deal health insurance plan is no more than a pay-as-you-go insurance plan.

"It merely changes the method of paying for doctors bills.

"You still go to your own doctor — to the doctor that is of your own choice.

"The physician or surgeon does not become an employee of the government. He merely endorses his bills to the government for payment from the insurance fund rather than charging the bill directly to the patient.

"But the AMA's studied failure to quote the facts about the plan shows that they have no intention of trying to tell the truth. Instead they rely on mis-statements and plain lies to carry out their propaganda line and upon Hitler pressure tactics to keep their own medical membership in line. It is medical dictatorship and should be stopped."