I am returning from a six-week investigation of European methods of dealing with problems of mass welfare. I was principally concerned with health, education, and social security, but I was also anxious to get an over-all picture of general conditions in the countries I visited.

Everywhere the hope for peace is intense. Everyone I met, in high station or low, young or old, powerful or weak, seemed for assurance that there will be peace. The people of Western Europe have a growing confidence that Europe, having taken its inevitable place in world affairs, will not revert to isolationism. They are grateful for our resolve, but most of all, they hunger for our moral and spiritual leadership.

Most of the people in Western Europe labor commun. They know, however, that if communism is to be stopped, they must create economic, social, and moral conditions that will make men prefer the freedom of democracy to the blandishments of totalitarianism. That is why Western Europe is so intensely interested in our endeavors to establish insurance programs that will give our people reasonable protection from the calamities of penurious old age, unemployment, disability and disease.

In London, in Dublin, in Stockholm, in Rome, and in other capitals, I received our European friends that as an anxious are steadfastly committed to social programs. President Truman’s Fair Deal program -- which would strengthen and expand our opportunities for health, education, social security, and civil rights -- stems from the profound convictions of our people. The realization will be both a national gain and an international victory against the satanic pro-

The President’s recent messages to Congress were delivered while I was on board ship, but I am familiar with their general contents. The reaffirmation of a sound and forward-looking social program will, I believe, set the tone for the work of Congress this year. And such partisans or selfish opposition as may develop will receive its full come-uppance when the voters select an Eighty-Second Congress next fall, bend to education, expansion of social security, establishment of National Health Insurance, protection of civil rights, are bound to come. They will benefit the American people both directly, in terms of a better life for each of us, and indirectly, by strengthening the democratic forces all over the world.

Health Insurance

I come home with even greater confidence in President Truman’s proposal for National Health Insurance in the United States. His proposal is based on principles entirely different from the British program, which I investigated in some detail. The British plan is totally unsuited for the United States. In England the health service is part of a broad program to reorganize the basic social and economic structure of the country, and eight-ninths of its costs come out of general tax revenue. This is utterly foreign to the President’s proposal. He is strictly an insurance plan, on a pay-as-you-go actuarial basis, and in- tended solely to eliminate the dollar barrier between the average American and the medical care he needs. He seeks only to solve the financial problems relating to medical care, and leaves all professional medical problems to the doctors.
I visited Sweden to find out about the system whereby each patient, although insured, pays one-third of the doctor's fee each time he needs medical attention. This is intended to cut down abuses by both the doctor and the patient. It is an interesting idea, and one to which we should give some thought.

By visit to Switzerland was for the purpose of learning about the Swiss system of government-supervised voluntary insurance. This system is heavily subsidized out of general taxes, and overhead administrative expenses are high. Neither the Swedish nor the Swiss systems would work in the United States.

We have, however, picked up a number of provocative ideas from this trip, and we shall want to think through many of the provisions of the Health Insurance Bill as it is now written, with a view to possible suggestions for change. If we should make such suggestions, they would not affect either the substance or the principle of National Health Insurance, but would at most involve refinements in administrative procedures.

Education and Research

In several of the countries we visited, notably England and Scotland, I was impressed with the programs for governmental aid to higher education. The British have been remarkably successful in providing such financial aid without any new interfering with academic freedom. We are rapidly reaching a crisis in higher education in the United States, and in the very near future I believe it will be necessary to propose to Congress some form of Federal aid to our colleges and universities. With the rising cost of school administration, and the decrease in enrollment under the G.I. Bill of Rights, many colleges and universities will soon be on the verge of bankruptcy. It will be necessary, in the public interest, to provide them with real financial assistance.

In Britain, Ireland and Sweden, our group also studied the organization and administration of governmental support of medical research. In the United States this is largely the responsibility of the Federal Security Agency, and knowledge of the relationship between government and science in other countries will aid our own efforts. While each country has planned and administered in the hands of the nation's scientists, the British understood the needs and size of scientific research. Everywhere the lack of trained research personnel is cited as a major obstacle to progress. I was told in Britain that fellowship funds for training are available to every qualified applicant. In the United States, unfortunately, a significant number of qualified men and women cannot find such support.

I was glad to learn that research is continuing in Israel, in spite of many difficulties. The Hadassah Medical School is operating in temporary quarters, but it is operating. Some of the investigations carried on there relate to cancer, and are supported by our own Public Health Service.

In Switzerland we discovered renewed interest in the International Council of Scientific Unions, an organization which may serve a most useful purpose by coordinating plans for large international scientific congresses. Without short-term issues, and without long-range planning, the scientists of the world are plagued by too many ill-conceived or poorly timed international meetings. A clearing-house could do much to make sure these meetings have real value, and I believe American scientists should give full consideration to cooperation in this kind of enterprise.
Social Security

In every country I visited, I was interested in learning about the various systems of social security. Our own program in America -- which I trust Congress will soon extend to cover more people more adequately -- is from an administrative point of view by far the largest operation in the world.

In England, the Minister for National Insurance outlined to me the government's plan for setting up an administrative agency for handling non-governmental industry-wide pension schemes. This is already being done in the nationalized coal industry, but the British apparently hope to carry out the same program in other industries as well. Under this scheme, the actual administrative work of keeping wage records and paying out benefits would be done by the government at cost. Since the government already has the machinery for keeping wage records and paying out benefits under its own social security system, the added cost of rendering this service for industry is trifling compared to what it would cost industry to set up and operate a duplicate system. This, therefore, benefits both the employer and the worker. It is an interesting idea which might well have some application here in the United States.

Displaced Persons

In Italy I visited a displaced persons camp, run by the IRO, at Cine Città, just outside Rome. I wanted to see for myself how these victims of wartime upheaval were faring. I feel that the IRO is doing a magnificent job, but only a man without a heart can refrain from wondering at the reality of millions in Europe lying homeless and depending on others for the simple right to live, to work, and to respect themselves. Today the largest single group under IRO care is the non-Jewish Polish, of whom there are close to 100,000. They are still waiting for the doors of some hospitable country to open. Their fate, and that of the Italian displaced persons, is a challenge to the conscience of the world -- including the conscience of America.

Ireland

During my visit to Dublin, I conferred with the Prime Minister and other government leaders, as well as with Mr. De Valera. I was impressed by the sincere intention of the leaders of Ireland to improve the living standards of the Irish people. There is also a forward-looking and ambitious program of hospital construction and health services, which is being pushed aggressively by Dr. Stace, the Minister of Health.

Apparently no American can visit Ireland without being asked to comment on the partition question. In my official capacity, I cannot express any view on this matter, but I have very strong personal feelings on this subject.

Italy

In Italy I had an opportunity to discuss, with both Italian and American officials, the problem of Southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia. In addition to the need for improving health and educational standards, there is a pressing need for industrial development in these areas. I think that, from a purely practical point of view, there are many opportunities in these areas, especially in industrial undertakings connected with agricultural resources. These areas need new agricultural methods, a better use of water resources, and the capital to develop both light and heavy industry. While I was in Rome I discussed the suggestion...
that many small investors in America -- and not necessarily only those of Italian descent -- might be seriously interested in the possibility of pooling investments under proper management so that their capital could be put to productive use in Italy. If that should happen, and if health measures are continued, it may well be that some parts of Italy free which so many people have emigrated in the past would become areas of immigration instead.

That is a long-range view, and for the moment it is necessary for many Italians to think of settlement in other lands. I am sorry that our immigration laws in America discriminate against so many good prospective citizens. Probably this can only be corrected by a general revision of our immigration laws. In the meantime, however, Congress at last will permit Italian immigrants to come into America on the United States' books. This would make it possible for about 40,000 Italian immigrants to come here. It would be a healthy addition to our population.

Israel

During my brief stay in Israel, I conferred with President Weizmann, Prime Minister Ben Gurion, and other members of the government. I also visited the major cities, and toured the countryside, spending part of a day at a kibbutz in the Jordan Valley, beyond Tiberias. Rarely, even in our own country, have I seen so much energy and good will put to such effective use as in Israel. This is a nation that is pulling itself up by its bootstraps, with new construction, new plans, new aspirations stretching our everywhere. The stream of new arrivals continues to be very great, however, and the burden of caring for them is an enormous one for a nation still not yet out of its international and economic troubles. Eighty thousand Jewish immigrants are living in temporary camps, many of them in tents, waiting the opportunity to find jobs and homes and start their lives anew. During the recent heavy rains and floods, many of these people had a very hard time.

If any new nation will get on its feet in a hurry, Israel will. But there are difficult days ahead, and the people of Israel must continue to depend on help and good will from abroad. I am sure they will get both from their friends in America.

While I was in Jerusalem, I met with officials of the Ministry of Education, who recently asked the Federal Security Agency to send a technical mission of American educators to advise them on problems of school administration and of integration of Jewish children coming from so many different languages, cultures and social backgrounds. I shall arrange for the Commissioner of Education to send such a mission within the very near future, and I have assured the Israeli authorities.

Germany

In Stockholm I learned that Mr. John J. McCloy wished to confer with the Commissioner of Education, Earl J. McRae, and so regarding educational problems in Germany. It was impossible to rearrange my schedule to include a stop in Germany, but Mr. McRae sent a delegation to Frankfurt and met with Mr. McCloy. The Federal Security Agency will gladly assist Mr. McCloy in every possible way. If the children of Germany can be inured with the love of freedom and democracy expressed by the German immigrants who came to America in earlier years, it would be a great step toward permanent peace.