TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE

TO PHYSICIANS

SHALL THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, NURSES AND MEDICAL TECHNICIANS BE MAINTAINED OR --- WILL YOU BECOME A SERVANT OF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY TAKING ORDERS FROM A DEPARTMENTAL BUREAUCRACY

ON MONDAY OF LAST WEEK IN A WHITE HOUSE MESSAGE, THE CONGRESS WAS UNDED TO ENACT NATIONAL HEALTH LEGISLATION. THE KEY PROVISION RECOMMENDED IS NATION-WIDE COMPULSORY SICKNESS INSURANCE.

ON WEDNESDAY A BILL (A NEW WAGNER-MURRAY-DINSEY BILL) WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JAMES MURRAY OF NEBRASKA, INTENDED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ON ITS PASSAGE BY CONGRESS THE PROPOSALS OF THE PRESIDENT.

UPWARDS OF FIVE BILLION DOLLARS WOULD BE CHANNELED INTO THE NATIONAL TREASURY FOR THE PURCHASE OF MEDICAL CARE FOR ONE MILLION HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE. INDEPENDENT PRACTICE CANNOT SURVIVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

THE DECISION CANNOT BE POSTERIOR.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM, NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. YOU CAN SEND AN IMMEDIATE CONTRIBUTION OF $25, $50 OR $25 AND ENLIST THE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ONE OR MORE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES TO MAKE POSSIBLE MAXIMUM NATION-WIDE EFFORTS. SEND YOUR CHECK WITH THE ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION CERTIFICATE IN THE SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

National Physicians Committee

George H. Coleman, M.D.
Treasurer
The New Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill

On Tuesday, May 20th, Senator James Murray, Montana (for himself, Mr. Wagner (N. Y.), Mr. Pepper (Fla.), Mr. Chavez (N. M.), Mr. Taylor (Idaho) and Mr. McGrath (R. I.), introduced in the United States Senate a bill (S. 1320) "To provide a National Health Insurance and Public Health Program". For the sake of both brevity and accuracy, this bill can be labeled

The Wagner-Murray-Dingell-Pepper Bill (S. 1320)

It Provides —

ADMINISTRATION:

The administration shall be by a National Health Insurance Board of five men. Three are to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. One of these shall be a doctor of medicine. The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service and the Commissioner of Social Security are members ex officio. The Act Reads: "All functions of the Board shall be administered by the Board under the direction and supervision of the Federal Security Administrator."

There is to be an Advisory Council of sixteen members appointed by the Federal Security Administrator. Six members shall be selected from the professions.

BENEFITS:

All self-employed people, practically all wage and salary earners including federal government employees, are eligible for benefits consisting of medical services, dental services, home nursing services, hospital services and auxiliary services.

PAYMENT FOR SERVICES:

Physicians, dentists, nurses, technicians, hospitals and other institutions would be paid for their services by designated local agencies with funds collected by the Federal Government and allocated by the National Health Insurance Board.

FINANCING:

No provisions are made in the bill for the necessary tax to provide the funds. The bill was submitted on the assumption that a special tax measure would be introduced in the House of Representatives embodying payroll tax deductions and methods of payments by the self-employed. In this manner an annual fund would be collected to be administered and dispensed by "the Board" under the "Direction and Supervision of the Federal Security Administrator."

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOSPITALS:

Provision is made for expanding Public Health Services to a point of an additional Three Hundred Million Dollars annually and Federal subsidy for hospital construction to the extent of One Hundred Million Dollars annually for a series of "Five Year Plans".
Implications

The Wagner-Murray-Dingell-Depepper Bill (S. 1320) is the most adroit and dangerous approach to Compulsory Sickness Insurance that has ever been made in the United States. It is the result of ten years of intrigue, planning, politicking and arm-twisting. Clauses in the bill seek to delude members of the professions by claiming to maintain the confidential nature of reports, and the sacred nature of the doctor-patient relationship. A move has been made toward what is called decenralization. Largely these are meaningless gestures, and window dressing. The basic issue remains.

Three Things to Remember

This is Compulsory Sickness Insurance. Upwards of Five Billion Dollars would be channeled into an agency of the Federal Government to purchase the services and allegiances of physicians, dentists, nurses, and operators of health institutions.

This is the Collectivist—the Soviet method. Our American way of life, our American institutions cannot survive the operation of an administrative mechanism of such a nature and scope.

Under its operation, the independent status of the professions would be sacrificed. Members of the professions would become Servants taking orders from the lay bureaucrats.

With Whom Rests the Responsibility?

Every physician, every dentist to the last man should aid in creating a combined strength that will resist to the last ditch such moves to foist on the American people these strictly alien ideologies and mechanisms.

Three Things to Do

Send your contribution today.
Write your Senator for a copy of Senate Bill 1320.
Write your Congressman expressing your disapproval of these proposals.

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE
75 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill.
President Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington D.C.
Dear Dr. Bergloff:

I fully approve the work being done by the Illinois Physicians Committee in behalf of the National Physicians Committee and I desire to aid.

Enclosed is my check for

- $100
- $75
- $50
- $25
- $20
- $15

Signed: _______________________

Address: ______________________

(Please print name and address)
The National Physicians Committee is utilizing to maximum capacity its resources and organizational strength in ceaseless efforts to preserve in the United States our system of Private Enterprise to the end that:

*Doctors of Medicine may retain, in the public interest, their personal independence — their individual and collective integrity and effectiveness.*

Understanding of purpose is sought and cooperation is welcomed in the belief that joint efforts may result in the attainment of these objectives.