

Uncle Sam, M. D.?—No. 1

# Health Needs Of Nation Put Doctors on Spot

U. S. Short of Physicians, Surgeons, But Great Problem Is, What to Do?

This is the first of a series of articles on the Truman medical proposals.

By CHARLES T. LUCY, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer  
WASHINGTON, Apr. 2—An America grown to world leadership in medical science faces a big decision on how to apply it.

That decision must be made because spectacular advance in medical science has not been matched by an equal broadening of medical care.

In our country human beings still suffer and die because the enrichment of medicine and surgery by research has not reached down to where they lie sick and injured.

Americans want better medical care. But a bitter conflict today on how to provide it touches the roots of the American social system. It stems in part from basic changes in the whole practice of American medicine.

**Little Black Bag**  
Before World War I, illness usually meant a first try at home remedies—turpentine and lard for the chest, poultices, castor oil. If cure wasn't forthcoming a doctor was called. He didn't lean on X-rays or electro-cardiograms or basal metabolism tests. His magic blossomed from a little black bag.

In the bag were a stethoscope, thermometer, perhaps a head mirror. Diagnosis meant asking questions and skilled use of eyes and hands. Surgery was rare.

Usually the black bag contained all the medical care necessary and when the doctor left the family was sure the patient would mend quickly.

But that was yesterday. Young men of medicine today are taught to rely on all the science that makes diagnosis and treatment steadily more precise.

Increasingly they specialize in narrow ranges of medicine. This new world of spotless cabinets and chrome and dials costs money—lots of it. It cities it is beyond the means of many Americans. In rural areas it often isn't available at all.

**Live Longer Now**

We've come a long way toward better health. Average life expectancy was 24 years in the Roman Empire. Just before 1900 it was 42 years—that is, it has increased about one year per century for 19 centuries. Today life expectancy for a boy baby is 65; for a girl baby, 70. In the last 15 years we've added a year to the life span each 25 months.

America has 350,000 doctors—but that isn't enough. Its medical schools, taxed to the limit, every year turn away young men who would make good doctors. Educating a boy in medicine has become steadily more costly and tuition doesn't pay for it. So medical schools run deficits. But even if they were in clover and could build new facilities, they wouldn't know where to turn for qualified service.

Hospital fees are high. Two or three weeks in a hospital can mean disaster for a family budget. Are hospitals getting rich? Definitely not—many are having a rough time financially.

America has before it a vast amount of unfinished business in medical research. Heart disease kills one out of two yet we haven't found the answer. We are groping in cancer. There is far to go in understanding mental illness.

**Medical Neglect**

Arthritis, rheumatic fever, the common cold—their cure is for some tomorrow. It is all part of improving the nation's health.

Many medical leaders say we should be giving greater emphasis to preventive medicine—nailing disease in earlier stages. It would mean less "salvage medicine" after disease is far advanced.

Because the young doctor leaving medical school wants fine clinical equipment, and because often it isn't available in small towns and rural areas, he may settle in a larger city. Smaller hospitals cry for internes and can't get them. Many U. S. areas are without public health programs or enough physicians.

By reason of high medical costs, geography, of shortages of doctors and facilities, there is medical neglect.

**What to do?**  
The Truman Administration, through Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing of Indiana, comes up with an answer that infuriates much of organized medicine.

Mr. Ewing would increase, with federal aid, the number of hospitals, doctors, nurses and dentists and develop a broadened public health program—and on these plans he would get much support. But he keeps his proposal with a plan for a system of national compulsory health insurance. That means that all wage earners and employers would be tapped for new tax deductions to buy pay-in-advance medical care.

It would operate much as does the old age pension system now. The difference would be that the new rate-off would go into a fund to pay hospitals and doctors for medical care of those insured.

Against this, in a country which frequently has shown it is not frightened by labels and which today demands better medical care, a section of organized medicine raises the cry of "socialized

## Amateur Hour Contestants Await Network Show

### Seats for Broadcast Still Available

By ART WRIGHT

With extra seats added to the Coliseum capacity, choice reserved chairs still are available for the two and a half hour show and ABC network broadcasts which Ted Mack and the Original Amateur Hour will present on Wednesday night.

The tickets are available at the Wm. H. Block Co.

It will be Indianapolis' big night of 1948 for Ted Mack. In presenting outstanding local amateurs over 173 ABC stations from coast-to-coast, will salute Indianapolis as "Honor City of America."

The public will see the actual operation of a network broadcast and watch Hoosier amateurs bid for national acclaim from the special stage in the West end of the Coliseum.

### Special Switchboard

A special telephone switchboard with 20 operators on duty will be set up to handle the voting calls.

The show will start at 6:45 p. m. with the usual pre-broadcast "warmup." At 7 o'clock Indianapolis will "on the air" from the Coliseum as Ted Mack, successor to the late Major Bowes, introduces the first Hoosier amateur.

The final selection of acts which will appear on the broadcast will be made tomorrow at Radio Station WISH. The production staff will arrive from New York late today. The only persons auditioned tomorrow will be those who have been notified by WISH.

The finalists will include Indianapolis amateurs, students from Purdue and Indiana University, war veterans from Cold Springs Veterans Hospital and from Ft. Benjamin Harrison, and residents of Terre Haute, Anderson and other nearby towns.

### 25 Acts Promised

In addition to the hour broadcast, the public will see a one and one-half hour show presented by the No. 1 traveling unit of the Original Amateur Hour. At least 25 acts are promised.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go to St. Margaret's Hospital Guild to further their community services work at General Hospital and the Flower Mission.

Prices are: Arena Floor chairs, \$2.40; Box and Parquet chairs, \$2.40 and \$2.20; Side Mezzanine, \$1.80 and \$1.20; East End Mezzanine, 50 cents. Prices include tax. All seats are reserved.

There still is time also to order tickets by mail. Orders received at The Times by tomorrow will be mailed out if accompanied by check or money order and stamped, addressed envelope.

### Rayburn Expect U. S. To Remain Prosperous

RALEIGH, N. C., Apr. 2 (UP)—House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas said tonight the country is prosperous "and I think we are going to remain so."

"There is nothing in our economy to plunge the country into depression . . . unless some people talk the country into it," Mr. Rayburn said.

He spoke to 500 Democrats at the North Carolina Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner. Mr. Rayburn said if there had been no planning or vision since the war, as there was not after World War I, the country would have dropped into a depression. But he said national income in 1948 was \$239 billion and asked "does that look like a depression?"

### Stubborn

LONDON, Apr. 2 (UP)—Fred Wurmill, whose Anti-Women Society collapsed when he got married, announced today that he has started a new organization to be known as the Married Men's Association.

The new group, he explained, will oppose all the inroads made by the Married Women's Association on the rights of men.

### Acrosonic

Rated the world's finest spinet by musical authorities everywhere, this marvelous instrument has tonal perfection and matchless construction, YET IS IN THE MEDIUM PRICE CLASS.

You may arrange to pay on convenient terms, and if you desire, we will grant a liberal trade-in allowance on your old piano.

### Convenient Terms Arranged

Liberal Trade-In Allowance

OPEN THE. 9 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.

Closed on Mondays

542 SOUTH MERIDIAN ST.—OPPOSITE THE MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

## AVC Sets Housing Conference Here

### Hopes for Cut in Federal Funds

Indianapolis Chapters of the American Veterans Committee will hold a public housing conference April 23 to prepare for possible organization of a Municipal Housing Authority.

AVC spokesman said last night that organization of such an authority is necessary if the city is to take advantage of funds which would be provided by the federal government if pending legislation survives congressional action.

They referred to a revision of the Taft-Hartley-Wagner bill calling for federal allocations to private building enterprises for construction of low-cost housing.

As the proposal stands, the money would be expended through the local agencies, the committee said.

### Day-Long Session

The day-long Apr. 23 meeting, to be held in the World War Memorial building, will serve as the start of an extensive survey of actual housing needs in Indianapolis and Marion County, committee planners said.

It is already known, they said, that 1100 families are on the waiting list for apartments in Tyndall Towne, and that some 1200 are waiting for admittance to the Lockwood Garden project. There are other hundreds living in trailers.

Mayor Feaney told the committee he was "pleased" to learn of the proposed conference to determine the extent of the property shortage here.

He added that the committee's findings should be "especially valuable at this time" in view of the possible legislation. The Mayor will attend the meeting.

## Religious Week Opens At Franklin College

Times State Service

FRANKLIN, Apr. 2—Religious emphasis week at Franklin College will have "The Recovery of Meaningful Living" as its theme.

The annual observance will be held tomorrow through Apr. 6 with forums and address meetings to be led by religious leaders.

Guests will include Miss Leslie Ferrell, officer in the Northern Baptist Convention; the Rev. Roger Fradkin, first national president of Baptist Youth Fellowship; the Rev. Henry G. White, pastor of Woodside Methodist Church, and Ernest Witham, personnel secretary of the Baptist Home Mission Society.

### STRAUSS SAYS:

TRADITION WITH A TOUCH OF TOMORROW!



## 'Tough Guy,' 14, Discovers Movies 'Could Be Wrong'

### Caught After Near-Tragic Stickup Here Of Cab Driver, He Changes His Tune

By DONNA MIKELS

A 14-year-old "tough guy" who thought he knew all about "cops" and "pens" today is wondering if the movies on which he based his "knowledge" might have been wrong.

Young Florian was arrested by sheriff's deputies here last week for an armed robbery that came within a narrow fraction of being a tragedy.

It was a first offense for the youth who ran away from his home in Chicago with detailed "plans of escape" carefully written on his school notebook paper. But the first offense was a brutal one.

But two things spoiled his plans. First of all the youth of Polish parentage tried to pass himself off as a native of England to Irish Sheriff James Cunningham. Then the suspicious sheriff found in the boy's papers a crumpled sheet of school newspaper labeled "Plan of Escape to Indianapolis."

The cryptic notations read in part: "Joe's. Go to school, when everyone leaves come back home. Go to Monkey's get the stuff. Come home and pack Dad's stuff and sell them to Joe. Get Dad's gun and shells, put them in suitcase, take them and leave city on bus to Indianapolis. Get a job, stay there three years."

This was the first wedge into "Floyd" Baker's real identity. The rest poured out after a juvenile who expected to be "roughed up" found himself staying in the hospital room in a comparatively comfortable cell, used for juveniles. The sheriff he feared might beat him instead brought him fresh fruit because he guessed his age was a runaway boy.

Then finally, Floyd broke down and told the truth. He gave his real name and said he was 14.

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