

expensive, but that which is cheap is cheap as dirt and need not be treated with care and consideration.

The new apostle of social security, Sir William Beveridge himself, had warned that "the danger of providing benefits which are both adequate and indefinite in duration is that men are creatures, adapt themselves to circumstances, may settle down to them." They settle down, indeed, and smarten up to them. What is done at first surreptitiously by uninhibited persons only tends to become common practice.

In agreement with the Canadian Medical Association, I submit the following very positive form of program for the Government. I realize that I am exercising a piece of futility in doing this, but I intend to put it on record. The program can be classified under nine points:

1. It is not in the interest of the sick that medical care should ever become a subject of political dispute, nor should the physicians' services ever become an item of meretricious party political value.

2. There must be no compulsion or abrogation of the citizen's right to determine the method and extent of his participation in prepayment insurance of his medical care. Any such abrogation of his rights constitutes a measure of civil conscription.

3. The fiscal arrangements for the provision of personal medical services must not be allowed to become a monopoly of any agency, but it must be open to competitive carriers within the framework of existing insurance laws.

4. The proper and only role of government in the fiscal arrangements for the provision of medical care is to undertake to defray the cost of insurance premiums in respect of those who are unable to assume their responsibility—the needy and the indigent.

5. In the interest of their patients and also to safeguard its own democratic freedom, it is my opinion that the profession will not participate in any plan which involves a measure of coercion or civil conscription.

6. The contract to provide medical care lies solely between the patient and the physician of his choice. The contract to provide payment for this care lies between the insurance carriers and their clients and must not intrude upon, or bind in any way the physician providing the medical care.

7. Any insurance system for the fiscal arrangement for medical care must foster individual responsibility and discourage abuse

by ensuring that the individual shall bear directly part of the cost at the time of the provision of the physician's services.

8. The prospective carriers should be encouraged to evolve an insurance policy which will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of age or pre-existing infirmity.

9. The profession can undertake and guarantee to maintain its traditionally high standards only if it continues to enjoy autonomy and control of its own destiny.

In a democracy, can the citizens allow the state to coerce any minority group, let alone the citizens themselves, and reduce it to servitude? Are Lincoln's famous words, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" to become, "Government of the people, by the majority, for the majority"?

Medicine and doctors are being exposed to changes which they themselves have not initiated and do not really want. Our society has decided that we, the profession, have given inadequate care to our nation. Our apparent shortcomings have caused our governments both federal and provincial to implement medical care legislation to assure every citizen the right to medical care.

Medical men have never backed away from their professional responsibilities. While doctors are less than perfect expendable commodities, they have gone unarmed into the beaches of Dunkirk; they have sacrificed their health and wellbeing in the interests of human suffering. They have laboured through nights of tragedy, with no thought to overtime and no thought for themselves.

This has been all too little for our social system. Our society wills to see the profession as a group of well off, self-satisfied autocrats with special rights and privileges.

Dr. George Scott, the eminent psychiatrist of the Faculty of Medicine at Queen's University, said, rather pungently:

Political life, ridden with patronage and scandal, has betrayed medicine in an effort to preserve its narcissistic images.

Psychologically bankrupt political parties have revitalized themselves through the life blood of the medical profession. "Medicare" actually has been a political manoeuvre cloaked in puritanical robes of altruism.

The medical profession moves into a new era of service. People seem to think they now have a right to demand treatment for an illness which may or may not exist. All one