

## WHY PUBLIC RELIEF IS NOT THE ANSWER TO HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGED

By Abraham Ribicoff  
Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare



Back in October, 1960, a new law went into effect which attempted to cope with the mounting medical problems of this country's 17 million aged.

This law was born of an acute need to provide better financial assistance for old people not able to pay for their health care. But this program was never tailored to fit the medical problems of all the nation's aged—or to lessen the burden on the whole family. It is, purely and simply, public relief. To get it in most states, the elderly must prove they are paupers.

In my opinion the measure, though of some help, is inadequate. We will still need it, however, even if the President's plan for health insurance for the aged through social security is passed by Congress. There will still be some people who are poverty stricken and have to look to public assistance for their health care.

Here's how the aged medical care program works under this system:

The medical programs are paid for by federal, state, and local taxes. The Federal government promises to pay part of the cost to any state which will:

(1) Increase its payments for medical care for persons on old-age assistance.

(2) Pay cost for medical service for persons over 65 who are not on public assistance, but who can prove they have just barely enough money for food, clothing and shelter. This is the Medical Assistance for the Aged program, usually called "MAA."

Each state decides whether or not it will participate. Each state determines how much benefits it will pay, and who will be eligible.

As yet, only 23 States, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, have set up MAA programs. At the end of last year, only 17 States and the Virgin Islands were actually making MAA payments.

Even though the Federal government agrees to pay from 50 to 80 percent of the cost—depending on the wealth of the state—many states say they are too poor to put the plan into effect.

However, if a person lives in New York, Massachusetts, or Michigan his chances of getting MAA aid are better.



Secretary Ribicoff  
These states account for 92 per cent of all money spent under this plan last December. Here are a few examples showing how little actual help with medical expenses some of the states provide:

If a person lives in Kentucky he is eligible for hospital care only in case of "acute, emergency, and life-endangering illness," and then for only 6 days hospitalization. In Oklahoma, "MAA" will pay for hospital care only for conditions which endanger life or sight. In December, Louisiana reported actual expenditures for only 8 recipients; New Hampshire for

25; Utah 27. And almost everybody has read about West Virginia where physicians' and hospital claims out-ran the available "MAA" funds.

Yet, these inadequate benefits have already cost Federal and state governments more than \$120 million. In fiscal 1963, the "MAA" program will cost the Federal government an estimated \$230 million, and almost \$200 million to State and local governments.

Compare this plan with the national health insurance plan proposed by the President—a program that would be self-financed. The King-Anderson bill, which is now before Congress and which carries out the President's proposal, would provide broad health benefits for nearly everyone over 65 through the Social Security System.

The cost would be only \$1 a month for the average wage earner and an equal amount from his employer. For this, you are buying health care, with dignity, for your parents. You will be able to save more money to give your children the best upbringing and education for a good start in life. At the same time, you are investing in your own health care when you reach 65—and relieving your own children of the burden of paying for it. What investment can pay better dividends?

Your Congressman wants to know how you stand on the Kennedy Program for Health Insurance through Social Security. Write to him. Also, for further information about President Kennedy's proposal for health care for the aged, write to the National Council of Senior Citizens, 200 "C" St., SE, Washington 3, D.C.

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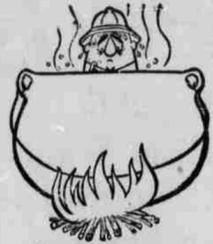
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"I don't think most Americans realize," says JFK, "the way the situation has changed." In this week's Post, in an authoritative article based on talks with the President and his chief advisers, Stewart Alsop tells how Kennedy has revamped U.S. strategy. What was behind his struggle with the Pentagon. And how the new plans are working out.

The Saturday Evening  
**POST** MARCH 31  
ISSUE NOW ON SALE

## Campus Forum

### Questions YR-NSA Resolution

To the Editor:

The implications of your front page story of Monday, March 26, "Young Republicans Oppose University NSA Affiliation" should not pass unchallenged. According to a report issued by the Young Republicans, J. B. Mathews' "one of America's foremost authorities on communism," links Harold Taylor, Helen C. White, and David Riesman with Communist Front activities. The YR seem to approve this linking. Mathews and the YR should know of whom they speak, and the YR should know something of Mathews. Many persons recall Mathews's activities during the McCarthy era with something approaching nausea.

As it happens, Mr. Taylor is a former president of Sarah Lawrence College and spokesman for a theory of education antithetical to communist absolutism. Miss White is a former president of the American Association of

University Professors, a Phi Beta Kappa senator, and a member of the Academy of Living Catholic Authors. She is a leading Catholic laywoman. Mr. Riesman is too celebrated to need my praise. His most famous book is *The Lonely Crowd*, which is not by the widest stretch of the conservative imagination hospitable to communist doctrine. Some might even remember that he delivered the first in a series of Humanities Lectures at the University of Nebraska a few years ago.

The implications of the story can lead the dispassionate reader to one of two conclusions, neither attractive. Either Mathews and the Young Republicans are egregiously and irresponsibly ignorant of the subject on which they presume to give an opinion, or they are involved in a smear campaign which is beneath contempt. They make fools of themselves

and embarrass their home university; for they clearly do not understand logic, the use of evidence, or common decency.

Robert E. Knoll

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## Check your opinions against L'M's Campus Opinion Poll #19

**1 What will the cold war turn into?**

an even colder war  
 a hot war  
 an industrial and trade contest

**2 Do a coed's chances of getting the right man diminish after college?**

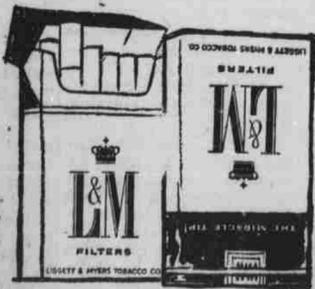
Yes  No

**3 With a friend's pack of cigarettes on the table, would you...**

take one?  
 pull out one of your own?

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2	HOT WAR	27%	27%
3	CONTEST	48%	42%
4	Yes	48%	44%
5	No	52%	56%
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7	Your own	58%	57%

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