

WHAT MEDICARE WOULD NOT DO!

An Editorial

One wonders how many people—and especially those in the 65-and-over age group—actually know what Medicare would and would not do.

It seems apparent that the number is comparatively small—and that most people, if Medicare is ever adopted, will be sadly surprised at its limitations.

As U. S. News and World Report points out, "Even the name is a misnomer—The very term Medicare is raising expectations that will not be met in the opening plan."

Medicare does not—repeat not—cover physician's bills or dentist's bills. It does not pay for needed drugs except when given in a hospital or a nursing home. And, of course, it would do nothing for those under 65, except tax them heavily to pay for it.

Medicare is essentially a hospitalization plan. And even in that it is severely restricted. It would pay the whole bill for only 45 days. The maximum hospital stay for which it would provide benefits would be 180 days and then the patient would have to pay part of the bill.

Ironically, despite all the vastly exaggerated claims made by some Medicare advocates, the existing Kerr-Mills law, which provides aid to the needy under a federal-state arrangement, is more liberal and inclusive. So are various local welfare plans, public and private. And the medical profession has pledged itself to serve any who need attention, regardless of the ability to pay.

The last Congress found Medicare wanting and refused to approve it.

Along the same lines, here is an Editorial taken from the January 7th Edition of The Alfred Sun!

WE GET TOO LATE SMART?

One of the most significant domestic issues confronting the American people today is the adoption or rejection of a Federal Government controlled plan of compulsory health care for the aged. This was made clear in the President's State of the Union message Monday evening (along with 4-hour train service between Washington and Boston, which should be of infinite value to Massachusetts Senator Kennedy. On well, at least it will put Robby through New York City on his way to Back Bay!)

Similar schemes were before Congress in 1948, 1950, 1958, 1960, and again in 1962, but each time they were stalled by an upsurge of public protest. The proponents of these proposals can lose and come back again. **The American people can lose but once.**

If you are over 65, facing medical expense and don't see how you can afford it, IT'S YOURS FOR THE ASKING. It is already provided by law. In New York State, the Metcalf-McCloskey Act (applying the federal Kerr-Mills Law) offers a health program for the elderly, with your federal and state governments sharing the cost.

This program is known as M.A.A.—Medical Assistance for the Aged. It provides medical care for persons over 65 with health expenses beyond their ability to pay. Thousands of people are now being helped by its benefits, and if you are over 65, you may qualify, even though you have limited income and assets, as well as a home.

The so-called Medicare Plan would **FORCE** every wage earner to pay higher taxes to the government. In only a few short years, those continuously increasing taxes will become staggering (through the Social Security System) to both the employee and the employer. The M.A.A. program is much more fair. The cost comes out of taxes already being paid, and it provides help to those who need help, not indiscriminately to everyone, regardless of whether they are able to pay their own medical expense.

The King-Anderson Bill is certain to come up again in this session of Congress. Let's pester our legislators a little before that time, and urge them to act against the Medicare plan and give the Kerr-Mills Law a fair chance to work to the advantage of the present-day wage earner, and especially to the advantage of our children and grandchildren, for whom we have no right to relinquish any of our freedoms.

Address your letters to Senators Jacob Javits and Robert Kennedy, U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C., and



50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1915

J. H. Backus, Publisher.

Twenty-four inches of snow fell Tuesday in the most severe storm in this area in years.

Mr. and Mrs. Berget Smith are the parents of a daughter, born Tuesday.

Miss Ruth Baker spent New Year's with her brothers, M. F. and R. C. Baker of Salamanca.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Guttinger and son of Hornell are guests of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Loughlin.

Mrs. Roxanna Burrows went to Wellsville, Pa., Thursday for a two weeks visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Miller.

Mrs. Velma Phillips of Allentown has been the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Briggs this week.

H. D. Smith, John Snyder, B. S. Brundage, T. R. Bassett, J. C. Lever, C. M. Lash and Ed Teasdale attended the Masonic Convention in Wellsville the last of the week.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 16, 1925

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. Uriah Davis of Rochester were called to Andover on account of the illness of his mother who returned with them to consult doctors in that city.

Natalie, the 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cole of Elm Valley, died Saturday, January 16th following a two-year illness with pulmonary tuberculosis.

James Dougherty, L. R. Stevens and H. D. Rogers are in Buffalo this week to take in the Auto Show.

Miss Thelma Alvord was called home from Washington, D. C., this week by the illness of her Aunt, Mrs. J. D. Cheesman.

Hon. and Mrs. Jesse C. Phillips of New York City are visiting Andover relatives this week.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 18, 1935

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

The following will preside over Andover Fraternal Orders the coming year: Masons, Lyle Mulcomery, Master; Eastern Star, Marion Theetge, Matron; Grange, Victor Perkins, Master; Relief Corps, Mrs. Lelia Livermore, President; Odd Fellows, Ernest H. Higby; Rebekah Lodge, Roxie Shaff; American Legion, C. M. Nottingham, Commander; Legion Auxiliary, Marie Hammond, President.

John Macauley, 86, passed from life Saturday, January 12th. A brother and a sister survive.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hammond and children of Adebolt, Iowa, are visiting relatives in Andover.

Charles Church has gone to Towanda to pass the winter with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Nobles.

Miss Kathryn O'Donnell, student nurse in the Buffalo General Hospital is passing a two weeks vacation at the home of her father, Dr. C. N. O'Donnell.

Among those from out of town attending the funeral of Mrs. Helen Reiss were: Mr. and Mrs. Finley McCoubrey and Mr. and

to Rep. Charles E. Goodell, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Thomas Jefferson wrote long ago, "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." We have the gift—now it is up to us to keep it intact.

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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January 20, 1965

Dear Editor:

It was a pleasant surprise to see your front page article on the rate reduction of Plattsburg, a member of the Municipal Electric Utilities Association of New York State and a purchaser of St. Lawrence Power. Plattsburg is to be congratulated for their efficiency in effecting their fifth rate reduction. Contrary to your statement, Andover did have a very substantial rate reduction providing 25% more KWH for the minimum charge of 20¢, 20% reduction for the next 25 KWH, 33 1/3% reduction for the next 150 KWH, 40% for the next 800 KWH and 20% for all over 1,000 KWH. We too could have had five smaller reductions instead of one large one.

This rate reduction was published in your own paper about June of 1961. I can't give you the exact date of that issue because in spite of your subscription rate increase you neglected to have the "News" bound and presented to the Andover Free Library as Mr. Backus did formerly.

Although our rates are not quite as low as Plattsburg's they are lower than the national and state averages and most of the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Kilbane, Mayor

P. S. Why are all of the pictures you print so dark? I thought that all of the very beautiful Christmas decorations would show up better in print especially with all of the Christmas lights overhead that were put up by the Village crew.

Ed. Note —

In the Plattsburgh Power Rate Cut news item, the 3rd paragraph stated: "This is the fifth such reduction—SINCE Authority service to the city began Jan. 1, 1959".

According to our files on hand at the "Andover News", it would appear that the local rate reduction was made prior to the change-over to St. Lawrence power and went into effect about the time of the actual change-over.

In the Thursday, May 11, 1961 Edition of the Andover News there was a news item on the front page about the regular Village Board Meeting.

This is an excerpt: "The proposed power rate schedule was read, explained, and then discussed for several minutes. It was regularly moved and carried to adopt the rates as presented with Dr. Finla Crawford abstaining from voting due to his position on the Power Authority. The rate schedule with full explanation will be published as soon as approved by the Power Authority."

In the Thursday, July 6, 1961 Edition we found the picture of E. Vere Stalcup of the State Power Authority and Mayor Paul Kilbane throwing the switch signaling the change over to the electricity from the Niagara Power Project." However, in the "Celebration Edition" of June 26, 1961, the new rates were announced effective.

Mrs. Rodney Robinson of Rutherford, N. J., Miss Sylvia Hardy of New York City, Principal and Mrs. Edward Hardy of Elmira, Raymond Hardy, son and daughter of Almond.

tive as of July 1, 1961 which stated that they would provide a savings of 10% to the customers of the Village of Andover.

Somehow or other this announced 10% savings to the customers of the Village of Andover doesn't seem to agree with the 20% to 40% reduction in the first paragraph of Mr. Kilbane's letter dated Jan. 20, 1965. This leaves us a little confused as to the extent of the savings—but at any rate—it still appears that we haven't had our FIRST reduction SINCE Authority service to the Village began.

As to the reference about our subscription rate increase in the 2nd paragraph of the Mayor's letter: We would like to comment on the ambiguity of this statement.

The rate increase was necessary due to the rising costs of all materials that have to be purchased in order to publish a newspaper, which any banker or businessman should be well aware of. After all, according to our memory, the Village water rates have been raised at least as big a percentage or perhaps quite a little more since then.

And as for the last part of the same sentence—to which Mr. Backus did this refer to? Why have we neglected to have the "News" bound and presented to the Andover Free Library, and since what date?

FACT: The last bound Edition on file at the Library of the Andover News is the 1936-1937 copy! This practice ceased when J. Harvey Backus and Mr. E. D. Baker passed on. The Library didn't have available storage space and it was stopped on the request of the Librarian!

Would this seem then as if we neglected to do something that hasn't been done for the last 25 years or so?

We print all of the News Releases given us by the Library—Free of Charge as a public service—and do it gladly. But, because we do this are we supposed to spend \$11.50 to \$16.50 per file to have them bound and then donate it to the Library so it can repose in the cellar with the old ones there? Besides we do have copies of the Andover News on file since 1937 that are available for anyone wanting to look up something.

Now, as to the P. S. question: "Why are all of the pictures so dark?" We would like to point out that ALL OF THEM ARE NOT DARK! Many of the pictures that we have printed are as light as those appearing in Newspapers that are printed by the letterpress process which we use. However, when dark pictures are brought in to us—we do the best we can with what we have to work with—but they are bound to appear dark in print.

With regards to reproduction on print contrast, it is quite evident that those responsible for this criticism do not realize the attending difficulties of night photography. Nor do they appreciate the time and patience of the photographer and press who take pride in the creation and presentation of factual pictures to the Community regardless of difficulties encountered.

While we welcome constructive criticism of an individual or group we believe it should be substantiated by comparison or qualified by one of the same profession.

As yet neither we, nor have we heard Mr. Wittle our local Professional Photographer, criticize the procedures of professional banking.

In conclusion, WE DO AGREE that the Christmas Decorations are very beautiful in Colored Prints as evidenced by the ones shown to members of the Chamber of Commerce at last night's meeting and which will be on display at the News Office for any interested people to look at. Incidentally, these were taken by Mr. Wittle assisted by the local Editor on the evening of December 30 with the temperature standing around zero and the wind blowing around 30 miles per hour.

P. S. We did give the Village Crew credit for putting up all those overhead lights and Christmas Decorations as well as the tree in the Island—Didn't we?

"In the War of 1812, New York was an important battleground and supply center.