

# ROTARY GRAMS

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## *Slants at the Meeting*

It has always puzzled me that the members of the medical and dental professions were letting the "Social Service Workers" do all the talking on the subject of Socialized Medicine, while those who were in the best position to know its effect on the medical care of people in America emulated the ostrich, with his head in the sand waiting for the storm to blow over. Except in their own conventions, the doctors and the dentists have apparently been so busy caring for suffering humanity that they have not had time to meet propaganda with propaganda. Perhaps they have been so wrapped up in the problems of the individuals with whom they come in contact that they have not given sufficient thought to the larger problems of the nation in regard to health. They have become aroused to the situation now, but it is probably too late for them to stave off a considerable degree of socialization of the health services, since the President's "Interdepartmental Committee" has evolved a plan calling for the expenditure of eight and a half BILLION dollars—and, even in these days of extravagant expenditures, that is a sum which appeals greatly to politicians and professional uplifters.

I've been hammering on the doctor members of our club for many months, to get them to bring this subject into the open before this body, and bring us a real speaker, who knew the subject and could discuss it. And it was the lone dentist on the committee with some eight or ten physicians, who finally yielded to my importunities and brought us

H. I. Phillips, humorous Columnist, whose writings appear daily in the Beaumont Journal, devoted a considerable portion of his column on June 21, 1937, to the subject of Socialized Medicine. We are indebted to Seab Lewis for the clipping, which brings the lesson home even more sharply than did Dr. Bertner's serious address. Phillips says:

"Senator J. Ham Lewis told the American Medical Association the other day that doctors would presently be mobilized and controlled by the federal government. Much as this disturbs the doctors, it frightens the patients more.

"Few things have disturbed the public more in the last decade. Under federal control of the sick room all pulse readings may be subject to change without notice and a very sick man may have to wait for years to find out what his blood pressure is.

"A man who needs his tonsils out at once will have to hold everything while a dozen commissions and federal boards go over his case and decide whether it is better for the country to have them in or out.

"Suppose the president gets the idea that hardening of the arteries is good for you; how are you going to get around it?

"Where will you get off if some Harvard boy down there in the new deal comes to the conclusion your liver belongs to the state?

"Consider the possibilities. A patient feels sick. He has no money, but has always been a good Democrat and knows Jim Farley personally. Well, he picks out the best doctor in town, goes to his office and enters without knocking.

"Are you one of my patients?," asks the doctor.

"I haven't been, but I am now," replies the patient.

"Well, what's wrong with you?"

"Washington says that's up to you to find out."

"Do you sleep well?"

"No, and you won't sleep well either if you don't get me back to health within the time set by Washington."

"How is your heart?"

"It's what the administration calls a perfect heart: warm to its supporters, cold to its critics."

And so on. Bring on the federal regulated doctors! In a little while everybody will be so sick it won't matter.

—H. I. Phillips in Beaumont Journal.

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this distinguished speaker. Dr. E. W. Berttner, of Houston, has received the highest honors that his profession can confer upon him, and has made a reputation for himself that is nation-wide, and it was indeed fortunate that we could persuade him to break into the arduous tasks that beset a busy doctor who is also devoting much time to an efficient administration of the duties of President of the Texas State Medical Association, and address us on this important subject. Dr. Berttner, introduced by Dr. E. C. Ferguson of Beaumont, (who was in turn introduced by our own Gus Scheps), gave us a broad view of the movement for socialization of medicine, the forces at present behind it, and the immense headway it has attained with the aid of governmental support. The figures given are nothing short of staggering, both as to the huge sums of money to be expended in carrying out the program and as to the small income which would be allowed a doctor after his years of education and training. Dr. Berttner well said that the highest type of young men would no longer be willing to spend eight years in college, two years of internship, and undergo all the privations of getting started in the profession, if the reward is to be a \$2,000-a-year job in the U. S. Public Health Service.

Personally, having been raised in a family of doctors, and having been closely associated with a number of dentists for the past ten years, I was hoping that the speaker would lay more emphasis on the relation between the patient and the doctor, which is one of the finest features of our present system, and which would inevitably be greatly impaired under a system of government medicine. The boys say they may be able to get Dr. Sam Thompson, of Kerrville, to cover that phase of the subject when their next program comes around, and all of us will welcome another opportunity to hear Dr. Thompson.

. . . Bill.

Bill Thames looked mighty good as the welcomer last week. Bill is a quiet, retiring sort of a fellow, but always ready to hold up his end of the job, and so he willingly accepted the task of pinch-hitting for Hap Faber and did a good job. One of the finest things that the Beaumont Rotary Club has done in recent years is the taking in of a number of younger fellows, like Bill and others we could name, who have added new life and spirit to the Club, and who will be here to carry on the good work when many of us older ones shall have joined "the innumerable caravan" referred to in Bryant's "Thanatopsis".

• Rotarygrams •

All of us were glad to welcome Johnny Southwell back into Beaumont Rotary last Wednesday. Johnny is a home town boy who has made good by sticking right by the old town and devoting his time to developing the possibilities in what to an ordinary man would have been only a "dead-end job". Johnny's work with the Fire Department displayed such genius that he was the only person to be considered to develop the electrical systems used by the city, the police radio, the traffic signal system, and many other fine and unusual features about our city set-up. The light truck which Johnny designed for the Fire Department has served as an example and a model for similar equipment all over the country. Beaumont is fortunate in having Johnny in its employ. Beaumont Rotarians are proud of him, and glad to have him with us again.

• Rotarygrams •

No Beaumont Rotarian needs to be reminded that the Southeast Texas State Fair opens its doors tomorrow. From all accounts, President Howard Gardner, Secretary L. B. Herring, and their associates and assistants, have assembled this year one of the greatest expositions in the history of this section. Let us give it our fullest support.

• Rotarygrams •

Some of the persons frightened by the description of a devastating attack by little men from Mars, a radio adaptation of a novel by H. G. Wells, may now be able to better understand how the dictators of Europe bend nations to their will. \* \* \* \* If a few minutes of graphic description on the air can actually cause panic in the United States, although the whole thing was just another "radio show", a fact announced four times during the broadcast, what would radio in the hands of a Hitler or a Mussolini do to the American people, assuming that at the same time all other sources of information, including a free press, were cut off by official decree?

—Editorial in Beaumont Enterprise.