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and Surgeons**

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From the Archives Correspondence

The word is out that the socialists are preparing their sticks and skins in order to rattle their drums loudly for another Emergency Maternal and Infant Care program when Congress convenes in January, 1953. The Korean War continues with increasing ferocity—with more hardships for our soldiers and their dependents—all of which will add up to effective propaganda to be misused by the proponents of political medicine.

The ominous and almost immediate threat of another EMIC makes it currently appropriate to present a suggestion offered some time ago by Dr. William H. Mitchell, an AAPS member from Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Mitchell, in support of his contention [that] “we cannot expect others to pull our chestnuts out of the fire,” offers a plan for doctors to adopt in lieu of participation in a nationalized EMIC program. It is this: Doctors as individuals should accept the responsibility of caring for families of servicemen and on terms acceptable to the patients. Dr. Mitchell admits that there would be abuses of his plan, but he counters by saying that doctors are now taking care of hosts of chiselers and accepting pay for this care from various bureaus and agencies, which in turn encourage chiseling to increase their bureau’s prestige. Dr. Mitchell declares: “Let’s put it this way—do you

want the government to pay you directly or through government-paid insurance for-services rendered for dependents of military personnel? (You will take in more money, your taxes will be raised to take it away to make a more firmly entrenched welfare state, etc., etc.) Or, do you wish to carry your own share of responsibility, care for those who come to you, as your just share of the burden in the defense of Freedom?” Dr. Mitchell offers this final argument in support of his plan: “We cannot combat the impending evils by compromising with them. We must overcome evil by good, and I hold that we must abandon selfishness and give of ourselves no matter how heavy the burden looks from here. The burden will be much greater if we shift all our personal responsibilities to the Government and thereby forfeit our Freedom.”

Dr. Mitchell’s suggestion is worthy of sober consideration by every physician and is praiseworthy on two outstanding points: (1) It recommends the AAPS formula of non-participation of physicians in a scheme of medical care which would be inimical to the public interest and (2) it would help to rescue servicemen’s families and dependents from cancerous paternalism and restore the responsibility in illness to the individual.

AAPS News 1953

AAPS 1965 Placards for the Office for Implementation of Non-Participation in Medicare

*I am not
a government
Doctor*

*I am not
participating
in Medicare*