

Teens Are Rugged Individualists When It Comes To Medical Care

By EUGENE GILBERT

President of the
Gilbert Youth Research Co.

Socialized medicine holds no great attraction for American youth.

Nearly six out of every 10 youngsters we contacted in a nationwide survey wanted no part of it. Slightly more than 3 out of 10 thought the government should step in and finance medical services. The rest had no opinion.

The figures favoring socialized medicine were heavily swayed by the feminine vote. More than 46 per cent of the girls were against it, but only slightly less, 42 per cent, favored it. Among the boys the vote was 63 per cent against it, 31 per cent for it.

Youth had its own reasons for opposing the system of socialized medicine now operating in Great

Britain and advocated by some and damned by others on this side of the ocean.

The government has better ways to spend its money," asserted a 15-year-old defender of the private practitioner.

Socialized medicine, claimed an 18-year-old girl in St. Hill, Hawaii, "would benefit only mediocre doctors." A Pittsburgh lad of the same age said it would offer "less incentive to be a doctor and therefore the doctors would not be as good."

Fear Trend To Socialism

In a similar vein, 15-year-old Diane Olmer of New Haven, Conn., thought that with the government in control of medical services, the caliber of doctors schools would suffer. "There is a

strong possibility," she said, "of their not receiving the full amount of education necessary." Thomas Giles of Worcester, Mass., feared socialized medicine would offer a "temptation for doctors to exploit the people with a take it or leave it attitude." Several raised this point in their answer comments.

"I think our present system," answered one 16-year-old "provides services and affords competition to develop new things without socialized medicine."

Although a variety of reasons were given, the majority of those opposed to government — provided medical care agreed with an 18-year-old Michigan boy who denounced it as a "tendency leading strongly to Socialism."

High Fees Criticized

On the opposite side of the ledger, the minority faction also had its reasons. High fees led the list.

"Some doctors charge too much and some people can't afford it," charged 14-year-old June Hirsch of Detroit. The medical profession got the needle in similar fashion from quite a few other proponents of socialized medicine.

Carol Kornblum of Brooklyn insisted government medicine would result in better medicine. "People would be healthier," she explained "and more research could be done."

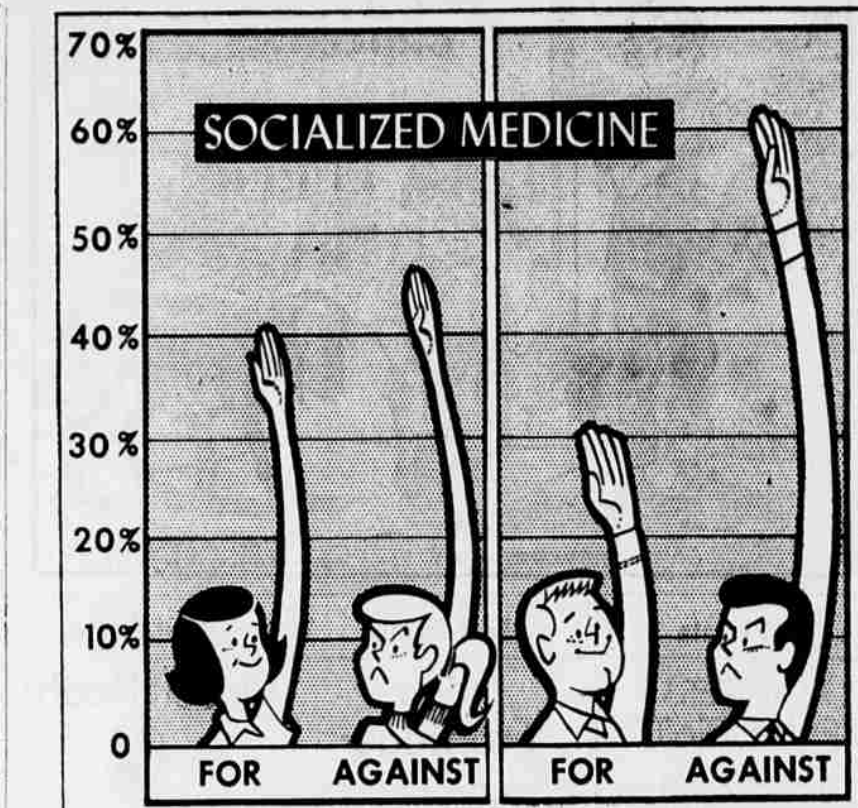
A Connecticut lad thought in terms of security. "I'd want my family protected in case our income got cut off for any reason. Socialized medicine would solve the main problems."

A New Jersey lass echoed the familiar complaint, "we certainly ought to get some value from our tax money."

By approximately the same overall margin, 10 to 15 per cent of the youngsters opposed to socialized legal and other professional service. Again the girls, with 39 per cent in favor and 44 per cent against, helped bring up the minority score.

The arguments ran a similar course to those stated for and against socialized medicine, with quality of service and high fees taking the lead in the opposing camps.

The "for" group was represented by Terry Drager of Washington, D.C., who insisted that "everyone should have an equal



chance at any professional services they might require."

Oppose Government Aid

A 16-year-old girl, who gave her first name as Irene but withheld her last name, summed up the majority opinion with the argument that "once legal and other services are government supported and socialized, we are in for country with democracy a thing of the past."

A 19-year-old Pittsburgh boy, had a more personal reason. He stated simply that he opposed socialized medicine "because father is a doctor."

Slightly more than half of the teen-agers queried were against the government giving financial aid to medical and other professional students, even if in the long run it meant lower fees.

"Students should enter medical school not because the government is paying but because they want to," answered a 16-year-old girl who voted with the majority. Michael Leslie, an 18-year-old pre-med student put it this way, "If Uncle Sam paid for everything, no one would appreciate the training."

In the party were Richard's mother and his 10-year-old sister. The tour may be the last Richard can make in his young life.

"But we don't believe anything of the sort," said Red Skelton. "Richard is going to grow up to be a fine young man and his mother and I plan to march in his wedding procession."

The tour has been attended by much publicity, and Red Skelton said it has an object.

"Somewhere in a little attic sits a medical student, or an obscure research worker who may be very close to having a cure for leukemia," he said. "He said that since the affliction of his son became known he has received 180,000 letters expressing sympathy and suggesting possible cures."

The women — home economics advisers on the staff of the U.S. technical cooperation mission in India — are Miss Alice McKinney of Berkeley, Calif., and Miss Dorothy Berbee of Jackson, Tenn.

Skelton, Leukemia-Stricken Son Continue Europe Tour

LONDON — Comedian Red Skelton and his 9-year-old son Richard who is suffering from leukemia, arrived at London Airport Wednesday on another stage of their European tour.

Slight, red-headed Richard, whose illness may be incurable, was in great form as he stepped from the plane which brought him from Paris.

He was wearing a black Swedish riding cap on which there were many medals given him at half a dozen European stops. "I am feeling fine and what I came here to do was to see whether London Bridge really falls down," Richard said.

India Offers To Pay Beaten American Women

NEW DELHI — The Indian government has offered to pay the medical expenses of two American women beaten by an Indian mob which mistook them for kidnappers, a government spokesman told parliament Wednesday.

The spokesman said a formal note expressing the government's regret over the incident was delivered to the U.S. Embassy July 10 along with an "ex gratia" offer to pay the medical expenses.

"Forty-two persons who were arrested in connection with the assault have been released on bail and further investigation is in progress," the spokesman added.

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Cat Finds Own Method Of Getting Off High Pole

PORTLAND — Miss Amelia Helber couldn't figure out how to get her pet cat, Bootsie, down from a fir tree where he had perched—70 feet from the ground—for seven days.

Finally she summoned a rescue service. But before the rescuers could get there, Bootsie fell from his lofty perch, hit the ground, and ran off.

He wasn't seen again until Tuesday morning, when he was found in Miss Helber's garage—in good condition.

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Actress' Outburst May Save Historic St. James Theater

LONDON — Vivien Leigh's startling outburst in the House of Lords may save the historic St. James Theater from the wreckers. Miss Leigh, actress wife of actor Sir Laurence Olivier, is leading the fight against plans to pull down the 122-year-old playhouse and replace it with a block of offices.

Defying parliamentary tradition, she rose during debate in the upper house July 11 and appealed from the public gallery for action to keep the theater in business. She was ushered out of the chamber.

Tuesday night Lord Silkin, former minister of town and country planning, told the Lords two rich Americans had been attracted by the headlines Miss Leigh made and had cabled promises of substantial contributions to help keep the St. James open.

The Americans, said Lord Silkin, are Huntington Hartford, chain grocery heir who already operates a theater in Los Angeles, and D. A. Cort, world manager of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co.

In New York, Cort denied the reports linking his name to saving the London theater. He suggested that the confusion probably stemmed from the recent purchase of the St. James Theater in New York by a private corporation which included certain members of Minnesota Mining.

Cort termed the purchase a private venture.

Fireman's Son Killed, Companion Is Knifed

NEW YORK — A city fireman's 15-year-old son was stabbed fatally and a companion suffered critical knife wounds in an upper Manhattan park last night.

The slain youth was quoted by police as saying just before he died in a hospital that a "bunch" of Negroes stabbed the two boys.

The dead youth was Michael Farmer, whose father, Raymond, is a fireman in Manhattan.

His wounded companion is Roger McShane, 16.

The stabbings occurred near a swimming pool in Highbridge Park in the Washington Heights section.

Police said they had a report of a fight near the pool about a week ago, during which a white boy was said to have punched a Negro. Police said they were investigating the possibility that the stabbings resulted from rivalry over after-closing-hours use of the pool.

Fishermen Report Heavy Tuna Run Off Coast

ASTORIA — Fishermen Wednesday reported a heavy run of tuna off the Oregon and Washington coasts.

Radio reports from boats off the mouth of the Columbia River and southwest Washington said large schools of tuna were being encountered 20 to 40 miles at sea.

Fourteen boats reported they were hauling in albacore tuna as fast as they could clear their hooks.

The reports caused excitement in this fishing port, for large tuna runs have been missing from these waters for some years.

Atomic Battery Size Of Dime Said Developed

WASHINGTON — The Atomic Energy Commission Wednesday announced development of a dime-sized atomic battery of a type that may ultimately power equipment in guided missiles and space craft.

In its semi-annual report to Congress, the AEC said the still experimental battery is capable of powering a wrist watch in its present stage of development. It has a useful life of more than five years and an output of 20 microvolts.

"Although not yet available for everyday use," said the AEC, "larger future models of the battery are expected to power portable radios, hearing aids, and equipment in guided missiles and space craft."

The report did not say who developed the battery, but cited it as an example of "several new industrial uses of radio isotopes" reported during the first six months of 1957.

The battery employs a radioactive isotope called Promethium 147 as a power source.

Farm Worker Found Stabbed

PORTLAND — A 43-year-old man was found stabbed to death Wednesday under the west end of the Steel Bridge in Portland.

Police identified him tentatively by contents of a wallet as Charles Henry Sims, a farm worker who had been staying at a rooming house here.

A dock worker, Harold Smead, found the body as he walked under the bridge over the Willamette River.

Detectives said the man had been beaten severely and stabbed several times. A blood-stained knife blade was found near the body. The handle was missing.

Some hair and dirt were clutched in the dead man's hand. Police said the killing resembled in a number of respects the hobo jungle slaying of Glenn M. Tullis at Vancouver, Wash., June 5. That slaying is unsolved.

Gilliam Named Top Soil Conservation District

ARLINGTON — Gilliam County has been named Oregon's top soil conservation district for 1956-57, and two individuals have been selected for outstanding work in a national soil conservation awards program.

Lloyd Smith, Mayville, was named by the Gilliam County district board of supervisors as the outstanding farmer-cooperator, and Harold Hartfield, Arlington, was nominated to receive the district governing board's individual member award. The awards will be made at the Oregon Assn. of Soil Conservation Districts at Tillamook in November.

The contest is sponsored by the Goodyear Rubber Co.

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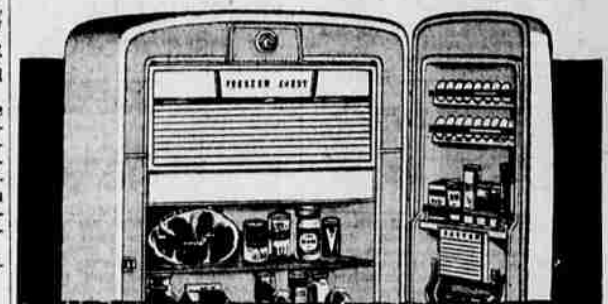
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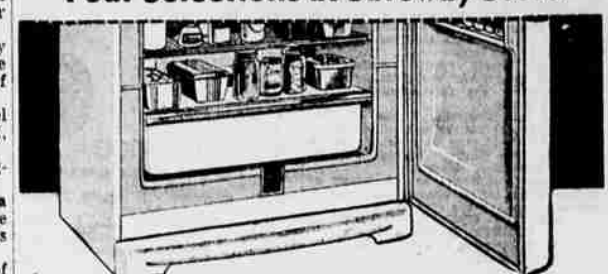
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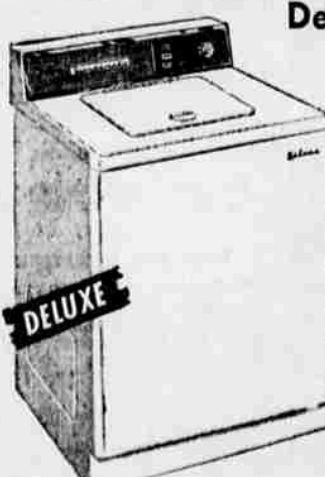
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