

# Health Insurance for Aged Shaping as 1960 Election Issue

Washington-(CQ) - Whether the Federal Government should provide health insurance for old people is shaping up as a major 1960 election issue.

The House Ways and Means Committee brought the issue center stage in recent hearings and a special Senate committee will keep it in the spotlight

for the rest of the year. The Senate committee on problems of the aged plans to keep its investigation going even after Congress adjourns.

The recent House hearings were on a bill sponsored by Rep. Aime J. Forand (D-R.I.). The Forand bill would add health insurance to the present security system.

The insurance would be financed by having workers and their employers each pay an extra one-quarter of one per cent in social security taxes. Self-employed persons would pay an extra three-eighths of one per cent. At retirement, those under social security would be eligible for the health insurance benefits.

The benefits in the Forand bill include up to 120 days of hospital and nursing home care a year. Surgery also would be covered. The patients would pick their own doctors, similar to the way they do under current Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. The Government would run the program.

**Pro and Con**

Forand contends there is no other solution. He says old people cannot get adequate health insurance from private sources at reasonable rates. The consequences are often the wiping out of life-long savings or forcing oldsters to go to relatives or the government for help.

The Forand bill is backed by several national organiza-

tions, including the AFL-CIO and American Nursing association. Nelson H. Cruikshank, AFL-CIO social security chief, told the House Ways and Means Committee that the Forand plan actually would help private insurance by taking on the high risk old people. He said private health plans will never be able to give adequate coverage at reasonable rates to old people because of the high risk. "Waiting for this to happen," he said, "is like waiting for a hippopotamus to fly."

The Eisenhower Administration and American Medical association are at the forefront of those saying that private resources, given time, can do the job. Both oppose the Forand bill. The AMA shouts

"socialized medicine" when the Forand bill is mentioned. It fears the bill would result in the Government running medicine.

The private insurance companies are against the Forand bill, too. The threat of Federal health insurance has spurred them to come up with a rash of new plans for the elderly. So far, however, the coverage offered is modest.

There is no chance of the bill becoming law this year. It is too late in the session. But the Forand bill does have a good chance of coming up for a vote in the House in 1960.

Besides such backers as the AFL-CIO and nurses organizations, the Forand bill will get a shove in 1960 from the oldsters themselves. The Census Bureau estimates there will be almost 16 million persons 65 years old or more come 1960. That is one-fourth of all the people who voted for President in 1956.

Both political parties, knowing that the aged represent one in every four votes, already are mapping plans for wooing oldsters. The Presidential candidates themselves will be forced to take a stand on the Forand bill, a measure of prime interest to this new political force.

Forand himself says he will keep pushing the bill until it is passed. "A lot of the Congressmen tell me the doctors are putting on terrific pressure against the bill," he says. "So I tell them there are a lot more old people back home than doctors."

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## Indonesia Urges Country Not To Be Judged by Capital

Jakarta (UPI) - Officials here pleaded with visitors not to judge Indonesia by its capital city of Jakarta alone but to "get out and see the rest of the country, the real Indonesia."

Good advice. But just try to follow it.

Attempting to travel outside Jakarta is not only frustrating and time-consuming. Sometimes, it's almost impossible.

In order to leave Jakarta, foreigners must obtain a permit from police or military authorities, whether it is only a short drive to Bogor for a look at one of the presidential palaces and the famed botanical gardens or to the far reaches of the archipelago. Some areas are closed completely.

**Control Necessary**

The regulation was put into effect recently by the army which said "in connection with the security conditions at present an intensification of control over foreigners is necessary."

The real reason, it is generally agreed, is to exercise a tighter control over alien Chinese.

Officials said the tourist on a brief visit is exempt from the permit. But many who

have attempted to go from Jakarta to Bandung or other nearby points without one have been turned back.

Obtaining the permit is only half the battle. A bigger problem is actually getting from one point to another.

Rail travel in 20th century Java is slow and dangerous. There are frequent wrecks and attacks by rebels or bandit gangs and almost every train is escorted by armored cars filled with soldiers.

**No Easy Matter**

Anyway, the would-be traveler must first get a ticket and that is no easy matter either.

Under a new regulation issued by the War Administrator, every person who wants to travel by rail to points outside the commuter areas from Jakarta must first obtain a letter from police or military authorities approving his travel. Only those persons in possession of such a letter may obtain a ticket, which is non-transferable.

After the ticket there is the reservation. The trains are crowded and reservations must be made well in advance. Even then the military may suddenly take over part or all of the train, leaving ticket-holders stranded.

Air travel is even more uncertain.

Flights to such boisterous tourist attractions as Bali are frequently cancelled without notice. Tourists making reservations from abroad, either direct or through travel agencies, seldom get confirmation.

As for going by automobile, the police and military maintain so many checkpoints that even a supposedly one-hour drive into the mountains takes three to six hours.

**Traveller Must Report**

Once the traveller reaches his destination he must report within 24 hours to the local police and register or face a year in jail or a fine of up to 100,000 rupiahs (\$3,000).

In some areas hotel managers have been instructed not to accept guests from other areas who have not registered with the police.

An Indonesian News Agency story from Padang, Sumatra, reported recently that travellers were forced to sleep in the streets because the hotels were not allowed to accommodate them. The police office was closed, making it impossible to register until the following day.

**Last Civil War Veteran Near Death**

Houston, Texas - (UPI) - "Old Reb" Walter Williams, 116, lay near death today. His physician said the end was "only a matter of days" away for the last Civil War survivor.

Dr. Russell Wolfe said Monday that the aged Confederate veteran was "sinking" and has to be fed through an eyedropper.

"He's getting weaker every day. There's nothing we can do about it," Wolfe said. Williams has been able to take only a mixture of milk, eggs and water for several days.

The old rebel recently won a battle with pneumonia, during which he spent about half the time in an oxygen tent.

Williams gained his status as last Civil War survivor when "General" John Salling, 112, died on March 16, 1959. The last Union veteran, Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minn., died in August, 1956.

### STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars.

To develop message for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES	MAR. 21 - APR. 20	1-10-56-59 60-64-71	21	31 Reactions	61 Air
Taurus	APR. 21 - MAY 21	11-16-21-31-34 54-58-86-90	2	32 There	62 A
GENIUS	MAY 22 - JUNE 21	1-3-4-17 18-20-55	3	33 Kindred	63 Awaited
CANCER	JUNE 22 - JULY 21	12-23-33-35 62-67-69	4	34 In	64 Circles
LEO	JULY 22 - AUG. 21	14-24-51-57 72-76-78	5	35 Attend	65 Today
VIRGO	AUG. 22 - SEPT. 21	19-25-30-42 73-74-75	6	36 Are	66 To
			7	37 In	67 Sports
			8	38 Intimide	68 Letter
			9	39 Judgment	69 Event
			10	40 Day	70 Books
			11	41 Good	71 Today
			12	42 Counts	72 In
			13	43 To	73 In
			14	44 Cheer	74 Money
			15	45 Recreation	75 Affairs
			16	46 Solitude	76 Financial
			17	47 Two	77 Favors
			18	48 Or	78 Moves
			19	49 You	79 Be
			20	50 Sides	80 And
			21	51 Advice	81 Or
			22	52 Good	82 Firm
			23	53 Ask	83 Every
			24	54 Public	84 Music
			25	55 Excellent	85 Re-examined
			26	56 Brightly	86 Partnership
			27	57 Relaxation	87 Pleasure
			28	58 Remember	88 In
			29	59 In	89 Materialize
			30	60 Social	90 Dealings
				Good	Adverse
					Neutral

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### Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins



**Fantastic - The Places Nature Put Some Organs**

You would hardly believe that many fish have "tastebuds" and "smelling organs" on the sides of the body and some both tasting and smelling organs next to the base of the tail. These "food sensitive" organs make it possible for these fortunate fish to detect or taste the odor of food just by brushing past it.

The prominent lateral-line that runs horizontally from the head to the tail, on either side, is actually a series of small "pores" that act as feeling, smelling or tasting organs. Detecting food by taste-buds in the body or tail is an accomplishment that probably assists many fish to survive in the competitive life of the sea.

Ridiculous as all this seems, there are other creatures, with misplaced organs that are just as absurd and located in seemingly impossible locations. By our human standards, eyes on the ends of arms or legs would be extremely silly. Yet the common starfish who may have three, five or a dozen arms, has "eyes" on the tip-end of each, and it can "see" with these brilliant, jewel-like "eyes".

**Series of Eyes**

The common scollop, or Pecten shell, has a series of eyes, in a row located right in its body. Having no head or arms, this mollusk has to have its "eyes" on the body mantle or else go a sightless way through the forest of sea-weed where it lives.

The garden mole of the yard or lawn has a complicated series of nerve-ends in its tail. The little creature can run backwards as rapidly as forwards, depending on the sensitive tail to give him warning of any obstruction. He can't see anyway, so his nose keeps him informed as to what's ahead, and his tail functions equally well when he is backing up.

Fantastic too, are organs of various kinds in the insect world. In a gine having a "brain" that is not located in the head but in the stomach. A housefly's brain, what there is of it or more rightly what answers for a "brain", is located, of all the silly places, in the insect's stomach, right

**Letters Carried By Thor Rocket**

Cape Canaveral, Fla. - (UPI) - Two letters postmarked in Florida were shot 5,000 miles in a rocket nose cone in only 33 minutes last May 21, the Air Force has disclosed.

In order to preserve the cone intact for scientific study after the shot, the letters were not dug out of the cone until two weeks after the Thor-Able rocket hurled them to Ascension Island in the South Atlantic.

But the Air Force seemed pleased it had established a record for speed in mail-carrying. Never before had a piece of U. S. mail traveled so far in such a short time. The rocket reached a peak speed of 15,000 miles an hour during the flight.

**Warren Praises Work by Nixon**

Moscow - (UPI) - Chief Justice Earl Warren Tuesday praised Vice President Richard M. Nixon's performance in Russia and Poland as a "magnificent job."


He added that "he left nothing to be desired."

Warren gave his evaluation of the Nixon visit to correspondents while inspecting the American Exhibition at Sokolniki Park.

The chief justice said he was spending two days here as the guest of Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson purely as a "visiting fireman."

He will do simple rubber-necking and sightseeing and does not intend to see Soviet courts or discuss legal problems with Soviet journalists.

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