



NOT RELATED—Sailors Russel R. Nixon, left, of Dayton, O., and John J. Kennedy, Green Island, N.Y., walk from their ship, the destroyer USS J. P. Kennedy, after it docked in Washington for the inaugural ceremonies. The ship was named after Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., the President's brother, who was killed during World War II. The sailors are not related to President Kennedy or Former Vice President Nixon. (UPI Telephoto)

### Voluntary Health Insurance Programs Face Rocky Future

Washington — UPI — Can voluntary health insurance programs such as Blue Cross, meet rising public demands for broader coverage and greater benefits?

The future of voluntary health insurance programs is rocky and uncertain, according to two experts writing this month in a U.S. Public Health Service journal.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Somers, members of the Haverford College Political Science department, warned that only concerted action by the medical profession and the industry would save voluntary

health insurance systems from a slow death.

Two trends seriously threaten the future of voluntary programs, they asserted. They said these are spiraling medical costs, and a slowdown in improvement of benefits offered to purchasers of insurance plans.

"After a decade and a half of continual pressure and tremendous activity on all fronts, health insurance is still meeting on the average less than one-fourth of our private medical care bills," they said in the January issue of Public Health Report. "These are disappointing statistics."

One outstanding reason for this is that medical costs have increased at a far greater pace than the cost of living in recent years, according to the Somers.

Between 1947-49 and 1959, medical care prices rose twice as much as the general cost of living, they said. "During the last year, 1958-59, when general prices rose less than 1 per cent, medical prices continued their lively pace with an increase of more than 4 per cent."

This, in turn is "the major factor . . . in the extreme financial difficulties of many Blue Cross plans," the writers continued, and a primary cause for "increasing government intervention in the problem of the aged."

**Squeezed by Demands**  
The voluntary health insurance groups were reported also being squeezed by increased demands for plans which cover the costs of dental care and drugs.

"If substantial coverage of these two areas could be achieved in the next few years," the Somers said, "a significant breakthrough toward meaningful comprehensive coverage could be achieved and a substantial victory chalked up for voluntary health insurance."

### Dr. Colasuonno Is Named to Board

Ashland — Dr. Thomas M. Colasuonno, a member of the Southern Oregon college mathematics staff, was elected a member of the board of governors at the January organizational meeting of the Oregon Chapter of "The Nature Conservancy" at Portland State college.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers and propose general plans for future activities of the group.

It was proposed that consideration be given for the preservation of natural areas for typical habitat in several areas, one of these being the area between Crater Lake and Lake of the Woods. Also the surveying of limited areas under the control of federal and state governments was

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