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Hospital Insurance

ANY MOVE to sharply increase hospital insurance rates and, on top of that, make hospitalization-insured patients pay charges in hospital for the first ten days is certainly not going to ride easily with the public even if it should pass the Legislature. If that is the best way that can be found to pull hospital insurance out of the financial hole into which it is steadily sinking deeper, it might be better to call the whole thing a bad job and go out of hospital insurance altogether.

If people are going to have to pay their first ten days' bills, much of the benefit of hospital insurance will be lost since in ordinary surgical and maternity cases, the hospital stay does not exceed ten days anyway. The effect of such a proposition would be merely to make the premium higher again on top of the suggested hike in rates. Indeed, the premiums would be almost confiscatory. No one would willingly pay them and greater numbers of people would seek to evade.

Reasonable increase in any goods or services are usually accepted with understanding and patience. But the proposed increases in hospital insurance premiums, including the idea of making people pay for the first ten days in hospital, is getting beyond the reasonable stage.

When a business loses money, it has two recourses—first, to bolster its revenue; second, find means of cutting costs.

If what we hear is correct, the hospital insurance set-up still has an opportunity of increasing its revenues by seeing that everybody pays hospital insurance.

We also hear that many people all over the province are getting hospital treatment these days who do not really need it while needy cases are unable to get in or are not able to get reasonable service if they do get in owing to over-crowding.

Then, there is always the possibility of hospitals reducing their overhead costs.

There is also the question of whether hospital insurance should not be extended to out-patient care to eliminate such things as the notorious X-ray instance whereby the patient can get the X-ray free if he spends a day unnecessarily in hospital but has to pay for the X-ray if he calls around to get it without being admitted.

Such drastic measures as are being mentioned at Victoria would ride a whole lot better if the public was satisfied that all the possible measures of obviating them had been explored. There should be a thorough investigation along these lines.

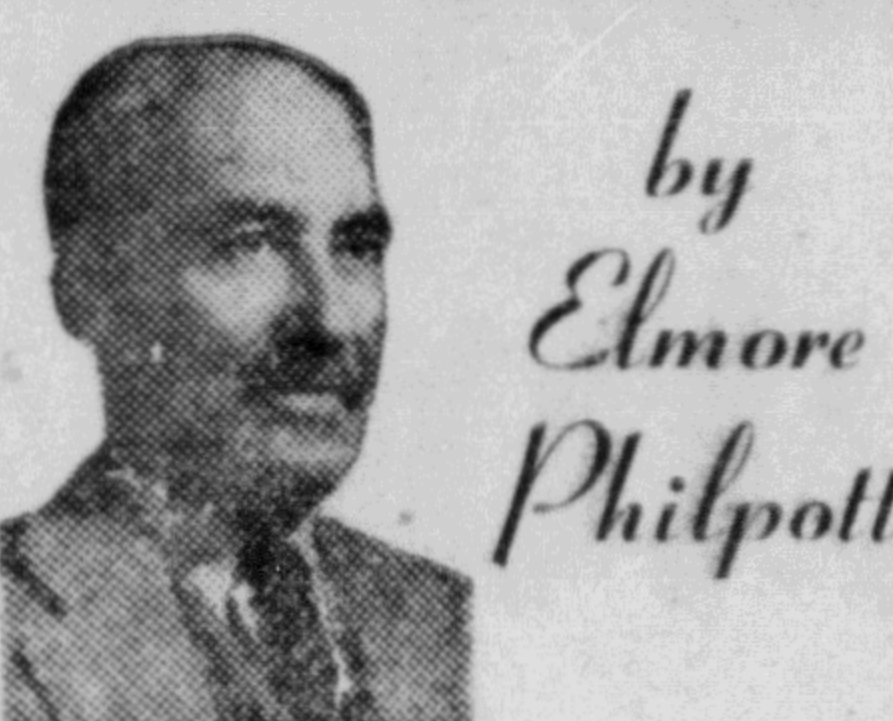
Scripture Passage for Today

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Cor. 15:22.



ALSO ASK YOUR GROCER FOR 3 MINUTE SALMON & RICE CROQUETTES

As I See It



VISITS INDIA PARLIAMENT

NEW DELHI, India.—The air was nippy enough this morning when I went to the Indian Parliament for my first visit. A lot of other folks had the same idea, too, for today the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, was to make an important public speech on international affairs.

The building itself is very imposing, as are all the others inherited from the British Raj. But unlike the British House of Commons, or its counterpart in Ottawa, the Indian Parliament follows the continental pattern. That is, the members sit in circular arrangement with the Prime Minister occupying the front seat on the extreme right of the presiding officer.

THERE ARE about the same number of members as in our parliament, but they have more women—about 12. Most of the MP's wear the white Gandhi caps, although a few Sikhs were resplendent in their colored turbans.

One lone picture decorated the chamber. It is of V. J. Patel, the elder of the late two brothers.

Above the dome-shaped chamber is a lookout sentry box. Microphones are numerous throughout the chamber. The MP's do not have benches, as in Ottawa. But they applaud in the usual MP style by pounding their hands on the backs of the benches in front.

I GOT A SEAT in the front row of the Press Gallery. Just a few yards from me sat the Prime Minister's daughter, Indira. She looked keenly at me, and I wondered "could she possibly remember me among all the other hundreds that were introduced to her at Vancouver?" Miss Nehru wore a circlet of white flowers in her hair, and had on a pale pink sari under a brown coat. She wore no make-up and her great dark eyes looked grave as she followed the proceedings—resting her head in one hand as her father spoke.

THERE IS ONE striking difference between the Canadian and Indian parliamentary practices. Here in India each day's session is opened by a solid hour of questioning. The questions are all printed in advance, but the questioner reads his query aloud, when it is answered by the Minister.

Most of the questions today were about India's food shortage. The atmosphere of the House seemed very relaxed and free and easy. At one answer the chamber roared with laughter.

MR. NEHRU began his speech at 12 noon and finished at 12:30. He read his speech from beginning to end—and hence it was not quite as gripping, from the listeners' standpoint, say, as the one he made to large crowds in Canada last year.

For about 15 minutes he dealt with the broad world picture. He praised the work of the Commonwealth Conference, but sharply criticized the U.S.-sponsored denunciation in UN of Communist China as an aggressor. He said this had made it impossible to close the gap, and so get a negotiated peace with China in Korea—which till then

had been a real possibility.

With great skill he compared the Korean outcome with the Tibetan outcome. He did not drive home his point—but the plain inference was that had the U.S. used the same conciliatory approach in Korea as India had used after Red China's incursion into Tibet, they, too (that is, the U.S.A.), might have been able to talk it out instead of shoot it out.

MOST OF THE MP's (including the dozen women in saris) sat polite but not too ardently interested during this part of Mr. Nehru's talk. But when he switched to the Kashmir question, they immediately leaned forward. Time after time they roared with applause, for instance, when he said:

"I pointed out that Kashmir was not just a piece of territory to be bartered. It contained millions of human beings and they could not be treated as chattel."

But to me the profoundly important point was that he did not completely reject all three of the peace-making proposals attempted by Prime Minister Menzies of Australia. He ruled out any importation of outside armies (and the MP's roared with applause). He also raised a point which I had not even thought of before, that Russia might well construe arrival of a Commonwealth force in Kashmir as a spearhead of future invasion to her.

But he did not completely reject the third point—that the UN commissioner on the spot might raise a local Kashmir police force responsible for keeping order and assuring a free election.

I CAME AWAY from the chamber greatly encouraged—for it seemed to me that Mr. Nehru had definitely opened the door to a peace settlement in Kashmir, based on the Australian Prime Minister's Point Three.

This has already been accepted by Pakistan. Hence the net effect of Mr. Nehru's speech was to "close part of the gap" remaining between his position and that of Pakistan.

Far from giving his critics ground for saying that he does not apply his own world peace formulae on his own doorstep, the Indian Prime Minister seemed to me to do precisely that.

I heard the diplomats talking as they hurried into their cars. I think most of them would agree with my own size-up:

Mr. Nehru moves in the international field precisely as does a surgeon. He knows exactly what he is doing, and he uses words as tools, with a scientific precision that is a treat to hear and watch.

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Women Invade Rod-Gun Club

Enter Heretofore Exclusively Male Precincts

History was made last night by Prince Rupert's Rod and Gun Association. For the first time women have been invited to membership in the club, several attending last night's annual meeting. The increased interest and participating of women in fishing and hunting during recent year has been noteworthy.

About 50 members were present.

After adjournment of the meeting, Staff Sgt. Lan. Potterton showed motion pictures which he had taken on his travels through various parts of the province. Some films were in color. President Norman Christensen asked for a vote of thanks for S/Sgt. Potterton. His

films were greatly appreciated. A highlight of the evening was Secretary George Rorvik, with pen in one hand and receipt book in the other, waging an all-out one-man membership drive.

He attacked everyone of whom he had the slightest suspicion they were non-members or unpaid members. Net result was 22 memberships, 17 of them new. Next general meeting was set for March 21.

Mrs. J. S. Black returned home on yesterday afternoon's plane from Seattle where she attended provincial command sessions of the Canadian Legion Women's Auxiliary of which she is zone representative.

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