

Doctors Not Optimistic On Medicare Program

By JOE DUPUIS
TORONTO (CP)—Now that it is about ready to go to the provinces for a final fitting, the federal medical care plan faces its first real test, the Canadian Medical Association has warned.

Executive CMA members from each province also warned at a news conference that they are not optimistic the plan will work or that it will provide a high-quality service if implemented.

"The real test comes when the provinces sit down to see if a workable plan can be evolved within the rigid structure the federal government has laid down," said Executive Secretary B. E. Freamo of Toronto.

The executive took time out from a two-day meeting to reiterate his views in the light of the medical care bill which received third reading in the Commons Thursday. The bill provides for the federal government to pay half the cost of approved provincial insurance schemes and is due to go into effect on or before July 1, 1968.

NOT FLEXIBLE ENOUGH

A major CMA objection is that the bill isn't flexible enough to meet the different needs of the provinces.

Dr. R. K. C. Thomson of Edmonton, CMA president, said many provinces may not be able to afford their share of the plan.

"We had hoped that the federal government would bring in certain modifications that would be more in keeping with the needs of the provinces. I don't feel these things are entirely in the bill and I don't know how the provinces are going to make out under the inflexible attitude of the federal government."

Dr. Thomson expressed concern that medium and medium-low income groups will have to bear the burden of tax increases required to pay for the plan.

CMA branches in each province will have full autonomy in discussions about the plan with provincial governments. But fear was expressed that the talks will strain relations between the governments and the CMA bodies.

"We are concerned . . . because of the hard-and-fast attitude of the federal government which leaves their provincial counterparts little room to manoeuvre," said Mr. Freamo.

Anti-Russian Complaints Fantasy, Distorted Facts

OTTAWA (CP)—Soviet press complaints of an anti-Russian campaign in Canada "are the usual mixture of fantasy and distorted fact," Prime Minister Pearson said Monday.

He read a statement in the Commons regretting the charges in the Soviet government newspaper. The paper said Soviet diplomats and journalists in Ottawa had been subjected to a campaign of intimidation.

Earlier, a Canadian external affairs spokesman said the Soviet Embassy here has been subjected to a few acts of hooliganism, including snowball-throwing and car theft. But there were no political implications to the unconnected acts.

Mr. Pearson said it is difficult for the Soviet Union to realize that Canada is not prepared to intercede with anti-Soviet press criticism or with what people lawfully do or say of which the Russians may not approve. These included speeches and letters to editors of newspapers.

However, Canada would take all reasonable means to protect soviet property in Canada according to diplomatic practice. The prime minister said Canada wants to improve relations with Russia, but this can only be done to the extent that Russia reciprocates.

The Canadian view on these matters had been spelled out to Russia both through the Soviet Embassy here and during the recent Russian visit of External Affairs Minister Martin.

Mr. Pearson said it would help if the Canadian view was carried in the Soviet press, which is controlled by the government.

China's Trade To Capitalists Up Sharply

MOSCOW (AP)—Communist China's trade with capitalist countries rose sharply in 1965, the Soviet encyclopedia reported here.

The annual addition to the encyclopedia said almost half of China's \$3,500,000,000 in foreign trade last year was with capitalist countries.

Trade with capitalist countries was described as up 30 per cent compared with 1964. The encyclopedia said the share of Communist countries in trade with China declined to less than one-third of the total.

China does not publish statistics on its economy. The Ekho-godnik (Yearbook) of the Soviet encyclopedia is considered one of the most authoritative sources on this subject.

The encyclopedia named Japan, West Germany, England and France as major capitalist trade partners with China.

The Soviet Union, according to this information, increased its trade somewhat with China in 1965, although its relative share of total trade decreased. No figures were given.

Unanimous Verdicts To Be Ended

LONDON (Reuters)—The Commons agreed in principle to end England's 70-year-old insistence on unanimous verdicts from 12-man juries because of growing attempts to bribe and threaten jurors.

The House gave an unopposed second reading—the main hurdle in Parliament—to a bill to legalize majority verdicts as in Scotland.

Under the proposed bill, a majority would have to be at least 10 to 2 for 12-man juries. One dissentient would be allowed among juries of 10 to 11, but juries of nine still would be required to be unanimous.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins told the House that jurors in an attempted bank robbery trial in January were offered bribes up to £200 (\$300).

He said the bribes were offered by associates of the accused to bring in a verdict of not guilty. The judge discharged the jury, but members of a second jury complained to police that they also were offered bribes.

Four of the five men in the case eventually were acquitted. With majority verdicts, he said, it would be difficult to find more than two persons susceptible to bribery.

Under the present system, if one juror disagrees with the other 11 a re-trial is ordered. If a second jury fails to reach agreement the charges are dismissed.

Disaster Fund Closes Jan. 31

MERTHYR, Wales (AP)—A fund for the Welsh disaster village of Aberfan has reached £2,970,000 (\$3,812,872) and officials announced it will be closed Jan. 31.

Mayor Stanley Davies of Merthyr, organizer of the fund, said about a third of the money has so far been paid to the people of Aberfan, where 144 persons, 116 of them children, were killed by a sliding heap of coal waste Oct. 21.

The villagers, who have been pressing for a greater say in how the money should be spent, will have five representatives on a new 15-man trust fund committee being set up.

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