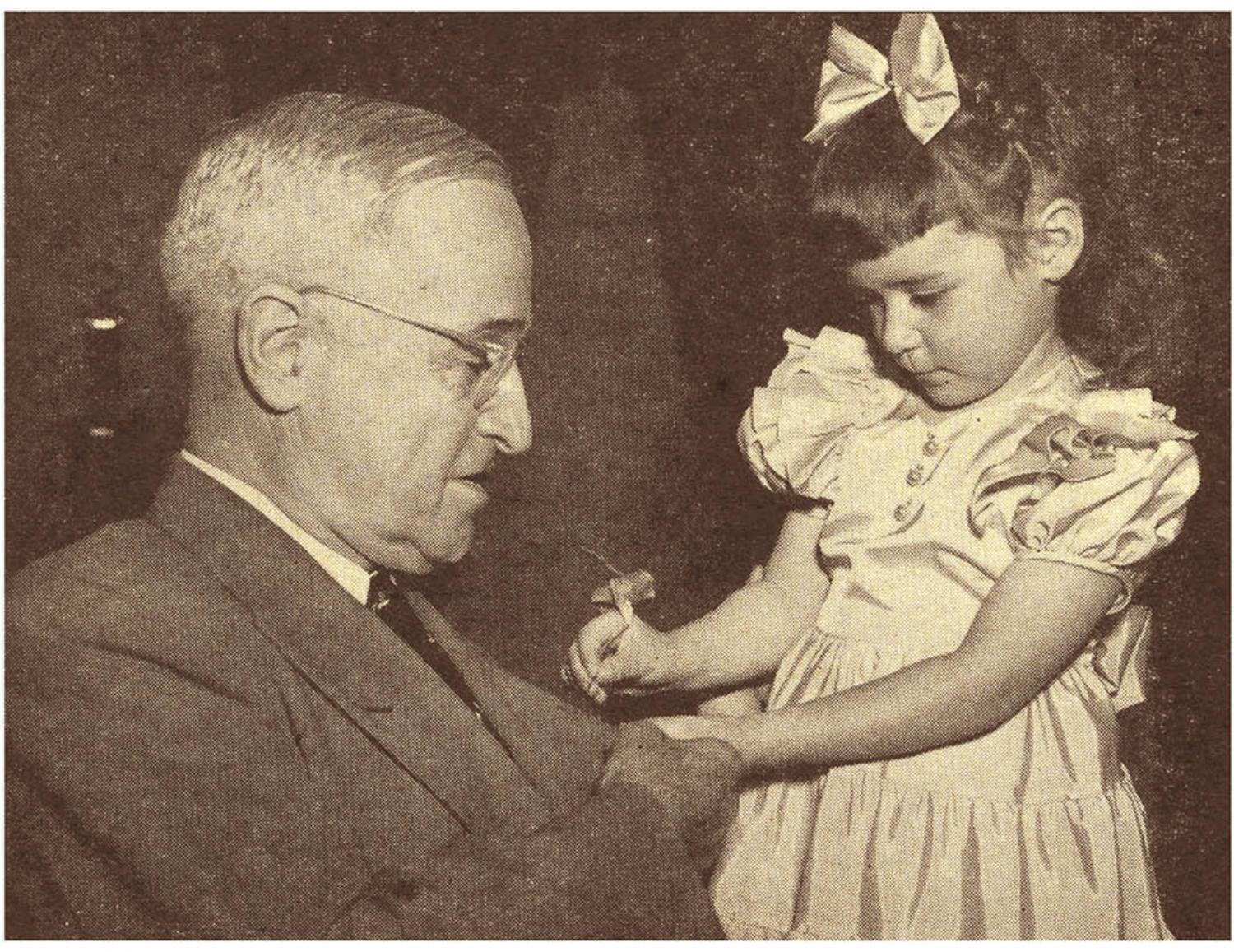
Pathfinder
May 1, 1949 p. 14



Time out. *A busy President paused for a Buddy Poppy from little Keitha Smith.*

Headline Contest

Truman's showmanship keeps him out front, but his Federal health plan may yield to Taft's

Harry S. Truman, in bubbling high spirits, was keeping a badly harassed Congress busier than a one-legged pinboy trying to set 'em up in three alleys at once. Within one week huge hunks of the Fair Deal, by rapid fire delivery from the White House, piled up on top of Congress's stack of unfinished business.

By sticking in close, carrying the fight to the opposition, he had put the opposition in an uncomfortable defensive position. Now, they either had to prove him wrong or offer something better. And paradoxically, the accelerated development of his welfare state gave him opportunities to win, in his own Missouri style, a friendly press and public.

Prepaid Health. The President wanted medical, dental and hospital care for all. Doctors' fees would be paid by a Government insurance fund, financed by a 3% payroll tax, paid 50–50 by employe and employer.

Truman found himself supported in some of his aims by Ohio's Sen. Robert A. Taft, chief shaper of GOP legislative policy and real boss of the Senate's practical majority. Taft recently warned his Republican colleagues that the GOP faced ultimate extinction if it adopted a policy of "blind opposition" to any and all welfare legislation.

But where Taft differs with Truman is on the question of centralized control of the program. If Taft can line up sufficient followers, the bill may wind up more like his than like Truman's.

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The Atlanta Journal
May 10, 1949
p. 2

Pros and Cons Air Views On Truman Health Plan

By ODOM FANNING

Compulsory health insurance is not "socialized medicine," because physicians would not work for the government, said the advocate.

Compulsory health insurance is "socialized medicine," because the government would come between the private physician and his patient, said the opponent.

Thus speakers, pro health insurance and con, stated their positions Monday night in what is believed to be the first big public debate in Atlanta on the subject of President Truman's plan for compulsory health insurance.

More than 300 Atlantians, including some physicians, were in the audience at the Progressive club. The speakers were Chat Paterson, of Washington, D. C., executive director of the Committee for the Nation's Health (speaking for compulsory health insuran e), and Dr. Christopher J. McLoughlin, of the Fulton County Medical society (speaking against CHI).

Sponsored by B'nai B'rith

Sponsoring the debate was the Gate City Lodge of B'nai B'rith. It was a non-decision airing of views.

"William Green, of the AFL, said that what every worker fears is unemployment, old age, accidents and sickness," said Mr. Paterson. "This program of compulsory health insurance would merely extend to the fourth fear the protection we already have against the first three."

He was answered by Dr. McLoughlin: "There are many who cannot pay their doctors' bills, but we feel that ways can be found to provide good medical care for them, specifically through voluntary sickness insurance plans."

Mr. Paterson replied that voluntary plans do not cover enough people with enough insurance. Dr. McLoughlin answered that 55,000,000 Americans now are enrolled in some form of sickness insurance.

"The American public receives the best medical care in the

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Truman Health Plan

ODOM FANNING

(continued)

world," contended the physician. "The maternal mortality rate, which a few years ago was 6 per 1,000, has been reduced to 1.3 per 1,000."

"Infant and maternal deaths have been reduced sharply during the last two decades, but we have fairly conclusive evidence," replied the lay speaker, "that at least another 30,000 of the 110,000 who now die yearly could be saved."

Employe Estimate

Estimates of the employes necessary to administer the health program ranged from 1,300,000 (Dr. McLoughlin's, of course), down to 50,000 (Mr. Paterson's, naturally).

"Compulsory health insurance won't work, because veterans would be taxed twice, Christian Scientists would have to pay in opposition to their religious beliefs and a man and his wife would be taxed double," declared Dr. McLoughlin.

"For an example of government waste and inefficiency, look at the Veterans Administration, which right now is spending $1,100,000,000 for new hospitals, many of them right next to gigantic Army, Navy and Air Force hospitals."•

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