The Queenstown News

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Medicine in 1952

The past year was "one of exceptional progress in medical science." That statement was made by Dr. Edward J.McCormick,who was recently installed as the 107th president of the American Medical Association. He cited several outstanding medial achievements, such as the progress made in developing a vaccine against all three of the known polio viruses.

Going into the health picture as a whole, Dr. McCormick then said: "Today we find it necessary to review our estimates and definition of old age and human usefulness.

"The horizons of medicine are unlimited! Research workers are making magficent progress in all fields Spectacular devices such as the mechanical heart and lung and the mechanical kidney demonstrate man's ability to ferret out the long hidden secrets of the human body. I can predict with confidence that the doctor of the future will do much of his work in the field of disease prevention."

One of the AMA's intensive current activities lies in expandng medical education —with private, not government, funds. Plans are now under way for the establishment of several new medical schools. To quote Dr. McCormick again, "The trend is away from centralized Government domintion. As Americans, let us keep it that way by supporting and promoting all voluntary, private activities at the national, state an dlocal levels." That s the one sure road to ever-improving medical care.

Happenings That Effect the Future of Every Individual

Are cracks—big cracks—at last appearing in the Iron Curtain? Have oppressed people reached a point of desperation where they will run any risk in an effort to rid themselves of their masters? Has the death of Stalin, and the passing on of his powers to warring factions within the Kremlin, resulted in weakness in the Soviet system far greater, more far reaching, than the anti-communist world even could have hoped for a few weeks ago?

Today, any answers to these vast questions must be hedged about with "ifs", "and", and "buts." No one can be sure. But there is a degree of optimism in the western world that is greater than we have known in a very long time.

The amazing East German riots were unprecedented. In Times view "they were jolting proof of a fact that the free world's leaders seem all too reluctant or timid to act upon: The people who have suffered communism hate it passionately . . . East German rebellion against communism seemd to give the anti-communist world its greatest opportunity — and challenge—since the cold war began."

U.S. News & World Report began a lead article datelined Berlin with these words: Signs multiply that the world is witnessing the beginning of the end of the new Russian empire in Europe. The myth of strength through communism is shattered by open revolt. The men in the Kremlin are desperately playing for time to patch things up, but it is becoming increasingly doubtful if they can do so, even with time. Revolt is in the air in the Soviet part of the world."

At a press conference President Eisenhower said that revolt against tyranny seemed to be spreading like wildfire. According to the AP account, he added that this shows "that people who have known freedem rate it as the highest of human values and consider life itself worth spending to regain it."

Moreover, the unrest has not been confined to Eastern Germany. It lies widespread in Czechoslovakia too. And there are signs of an impending blowup of major proportions in Poland, which has been given the full communist treatment.

The difficulties faced by anti-communists behind the Iron Curtain are enormous. Purges have destroyed much of their leadership. A ruthless, huge and tough-disciplined police force, equipped like an army, is always ready to move instantly to curb dissension. Every conceivable step has been taken to safeguard communist authority. Yet, as history shows, unarmed peoples have overthrown dictatorships before, although at a terrible cost.

In a symbolic sense, one of the most striking news pictures of all time came out of the East Berlin riots and was widely printed in this country. It showed two rioters throwing stones at a Soviet tank. Obviously, the stones could not hurt the tank. Equally obviously, the rioteres were in imminent peril of being blown to bits by the tank's guns. From a purely practical standpoint, the stone-throwing marked an ultimate in futility. Yet the spirit that it represented is the kind of spirit that has destroyed tyranny and created freedom ever since recorded history began.

Finally, these great events must certainly be the reason for Russja's stepped-up "peace offensive." A nation with such tremendous troubles at home is naturally eager to reduce her troubles and committments elsewhere to greatest possible extent.

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

An Honest Night's Sleep

Slim Johnson, just back from a business trip, tells about a hotel he stayed at one night.

"I hit town late and went right to the hotel. There was no clerk at the desk, but there was a sign that said: 'Gone to bed. Rooms $3. Take a key. Pay when you leave. Sleep Well.'

"Upstairs, the room was real clean, the bed comfortable, and I slept like a log. Came down in the morning—still no clerk. So I left three dollars at the desk and went on. Can you imagine folks that trustful?"

From where I sit, running a hotel on the honor system shows a real trust in people. And people always appreciate being trusted. Letting your neighbor follow his personal preference is a kind of trust too—trusting in his good judgment. I like a temperate glass of beer occasionally, you may prefer buttermilk, but let's hope neither of us "registers" a complaint against the other.

Joe Marsh

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