The Queenstown News

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Friday, November 13, 1953

Milking the Taxpayers

A British woman, who is a member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, plans a tour of this country. Her purpose is to talk to groups of all kinds in praise of England's National Health Service—the system under which the practice of medicine has been socilaized in that country. It's reported that she is a gifted speaker.

Anyone, of course, is entitled to advocate socialized medicine. But what makes this visitor's tour interesting is it auspices. The trip is to be made under a Smith-Mundt grant. And the Smith-Mundt Bill, which became law in 1948, was passed by Congress "to promote the better understanding of the United States among the peoples of the world and to strengthen international relations." The American taxpayers, of course, pay the bills for those who receive the grants.

Just how talks on behalf of British socialized medicine can "promote the better understanding of the U.S." is extremely difficult to perceive. This country is supposed to stand solidly on the side of maximum freedom for all—and that means freedom for the professions and enterprise no less than for individuals. Socialism, whether of medicine or anything else, the great destroyer of freedom. Under socialism the government makes the rules and calls the tune and those affected have no choice but to obey.

In short, one wonders why the taxpayers should be assessed to subsidized projects large or small, which if successful would eventually destroy America as we know it.

End of the Middle Class

Perle Mesta, formerly American minister to Luxembourg, recently made an extended visit to Russia, and wrote a series of articles about her experiences. In one of them, Mrs. Mesta said, "Wherever I moved I was amazed to see how Russia was divided so sharply into two broad classes—the rich who had much and the poor who had little. Everything in Moscow seemed to contradict the Communist stories of the classless society which the Russian were supposed to be building. About all they seem to have achieved has been to wipe out the middle class, leaving the two extremes as great or greaert than ever."

At one extreme Mrs. Mesta saw legions of ragged peasants and workers, living at a bare subsistence level. At the other she saw luxury shops which can be patronized only by the elite, and a roof-top restaurant where a dinner for two cost 120 rubles. The average Russian worker earns 600 rubles a month.

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