

October 18, 1966

Letter to the Editor
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Real incongruities have long been noted between the integrity, devotion and compassion of the physician helping us when we're sick, contrasted to the social foot-dragging of the organizations which represent him, local and national Medical Societies.

However, a reverse twist is noteworthy in a recent action of the California Medical Association which went on record, "opposing any discriminatory law or regulation which might deny medical care to anyone who would otherwise be eligible". This was aimed at a clause in Medicare which bars persons 65 or over from benefits if they belong to an organization required to register under the Internal Security Act.

Here social leaders have imposed onto Medicine the will of an intolerant society. The true physician knows he must, with equal effort, treat the wounds or support the failing heart of a criminal, a Communist or just a plain scoundrel; that there is only one class of patient, a sick one.

Medicare applicants would do well to protest or refuse to sign oaths concerning the private business of their beliefs or organizations, which have nothing to do with their needs and guarantees for medical payments.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn