

Beacon Hill

Change in Blue Cross Attacked by Catholic Hospital Director

BOSTON—The director of Catholic hospitals for the Archdiocese of Boston has assailed a plan to place the Blue Cross and its affiliated hospitals under the state public health commissioner. He called it "a step on the road to socialized medicine."

Msgr. Gustin C. Dalton appeared before the Legislative Committee on Insurance as it heard a report of a special legislative commission which recommended changing the administrative setup of the Blue Cross. Roger W. Hardy, Blue Cross director, was another critic.

Senator Leslie B. Cutler (R-Needham) said the main changes recommended are:

1. Transferring authority to approve hospital contracts from the public welfare to the public health commissioner.
2. Approval of subscriber rates by the insurance commissioner.
3. An affidavit from individual subscribers that they are in good health.
4. Taking power away from the hospitals by reducing their representatives on the 15-man board of directors from nine to six.

Hardy claimed that the proposed legislation would make more than half a million subscribers to the hospital plan ineligible.

He said it would "remove from the Blue Cross rolls all groups of less than 10; would bar from group membership federal and state employees and even members of the Legislature and would prevent thousands of Massachusetts farmers from the privileges of group benefits through Grange and Farm Bureau membership."

Two-Term Limit Beaten, But Comes Up Again Today

The shades of George Washington and Franklin D. Roosevelt were invoked yesterday when the two-term limit for Presidents came up for ratification in the Senate.

With Senate President Chester A. Dolan (D-Boston) casting the deciding vote, the resolutions ratifying the U.S. amendment were defeated by a 17-17 tie.

It was a straight party line vote except for two switches on each side. Democratic Senators John W. Coddair Jr. of Haverhill and Francis J. O'Neil of Attleboro voted with the Republicans in favor of ratification, and Republicans Cornelius F. Haley of Rowley and John D. Mackay of Quincy sided with the Democrats against the amendment.

Reconsideration was passed how-

ever, and the measure will be voted upon again today.

Senator Charles J. Innes (R-Boston) said that 22 states have approved ratification so far. The U.S. Constitution requires that three-quarters of the states must approve U.S. amendments before they become effective.

During the debate Innes recalled that Washington first set down the principle of a two-term limit. Senator John E. Powers (D-Boston) replied that nobody could say now whether or not the U.S. would again be involved in a world war as it was in 1911 "when President Roosevelt's leadership was needed—even though it was for a fourth term."

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House Approves Labor Bills

Labor won a partial victory in the House yesterday when the representatives approved on voice vote two bills long sought by unions.

1. Legalize strikes for union shops.
2. Require employers to get certificates from the labor commissioner saying they had attempted to settle a strike in good faith before they can appeal to courts for injunctions against strikes.

Representative Marion Umans (D-Boston) called the bills "moderate."

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