

THE STATE AND THE DOCTOR

Britain's doctors, hospitals and health centres come under State control in the 152 million pounds a year National Health Service Bill soon to come on the Statute Book. Critics of the new Charter for Professional people and patients, centre on Harley Street, home of British medicine. View of more than 50,000 doctor-members of the British Medical Association are voiced by Dr. Guy Dain and Dr. Charles Hill.

Dr. Hill On my right is Doctor Guy Dain, chairman of the British Medical Association, but you, the public, are interested in health no less than doctors, and in health services too. We all want better health services, and better health, but in organizing them let us make sure that your doctor doesn't become the State doctor, your servant become a Government servant.

Dr. D The new service must be certain to provide that both you and your doctor are free to take full advantage of the service without Government or Civil Service interference. Your freedom means our freedom.

The Government's plan is described by Labour M.P. Dr. Haden Guest.

Dr. Guest From the day when Parliament says the National Health Service is to come into operation every man, woman and child, every person young and old, every person insured or not insured, will be able to get free medical attention. In the home, in a doctor's surgery, or in the hospital, and if you need it you will get free speciality consultation, free special treatment in the hospital. The first thing to know is that the whole service, the doctor in his surgery, the doctor in your home, or the bed in the hospital if you need to go there, will be free. There will be no more doctors bills. Mothers of families need no longer be afraid to go to the doctor for treatment. Those who suffer from chronic women's ailments that many people suffer from, will have them prevented at an early stage. This alone will lift a heavy burden of anxiety upon many lives. There must be many of you listening to me now as I speak to you through Pathe News, who know by bitter experience the facts of which I speak. The immediate benefit to children will also be very great. Early treatment will save many thousands of children's lives. It is the simple things the simple illnesses that effect children, measles, whooping cough, cold in the chest that developes to pneumonia, these are the causes of the death in the children. Let me remind you again what I said earlier to you, there will be no more doctors bills.