

1949

- *Robert F. Wagner (D-N.Y.) resigned from the Senate because of ill health.*
- *President Truman again sent a message to Congress calling for national health insurance.*
- *The Republicans introduced a bill in Congress, the Flanders-Ives bill, or the Flanders-Ives-Nixon bill, calling for a federal subsidy to make it possible for low-income persons to buy adequate hospital insurance. The federal government's proportion of the premium would depend on the individual's income. The states would operate the plan and would be required to share in the cost of the subsidy, depending on the average income in the state. The federal government's share would range from one-third to three-quarters. Hearings were held, but nothing else happened.*

1950

- *A National Conference on Aging was called by the Federal Security Agency.*
- *The Social Security Act was amended to provide direct payment to doctors, hospitals, and other providers of care by the states, with matching federal aid.*

1952

- *Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing recommended national health insurance for Social Security beneficiaries.*
- *Murray-Humphrey-Dingell-Celler bills were introduced in the House and Senate calling for health insurance for Social Security beneficiaries.*
- *The President's Commission on Health Needs of the Nation reported in favor of health insurance for Social Security beneficiaries.*
- *The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals began its program.*
- *The Commission on Financing of Hospital Care was established, with the encouragement of the AHA and the financial support of foundations, to study an aspect of health care that the Commission on Hospital Care had been unable to study.*

1953

- *The Federal Security Agency was supplanted by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with Oveta Culp Hobby as secretary.*

1954

- *The Eisenhower administration supported a reinsurance bill under which the federal government would subsidize partial payment of premiums for low-income individuals.*
- *An AHA committee under the chairmanship of E.A. van Steenwyk studied problems of the elderly and recommended federal help. The AMA was against the use of federal funds. The AFL-CIO said the AHA recommendations were too conservative.*
- *Jonas Salk developed an injectable vaccine against polio.*
- *The Olsen report on education in hospital administration was published.*
- *Dr. Edwin L. Crosby became the executive secretary of the AHA, succeeding George Bugbee.*

1956

- *The Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities was incorporated.*
- *The “Military Medicare” program was enacted, giving health care service to military dependents.*
- *The Social Security Act was amended to give monthly benefits to permanently and totally disabled workers between the ages of 50 and 64.*
- *The executive council of the AFL-CIO took a position favoring government health insurance.*

1957

- *The Forand bill, providing for health insurance for Social Security beneficiaries, was introduced into Congress with the support of the AFL-CIO.*
 - *The AMA house of delegates moved against the Forand bill.*
- *Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) became chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.*

1959

- *The Forand bill was reintroduced in Congress. The House Ways and Means Committee in executive session voted 17 to 8 against it. A stripped-down bill (less surgery benefits) was also defeated 16 to 9 in committee.*
- *A Senate subcommittee held hearings on the problems of the aged (primarily their health problems).*

1960

- *The annual conference of governors recommended medical insurance for the elderly under Social Security.*
- *The presidential Task Force on Health and Social Security for the American People was appointed by President-elect John F. Kennedy.*
- *A Kennedy-Anderson bill was introduced, calling for wider benefits than the Forand bill. It was unable to pass.*
- *The Kerr-Mills bill was passed. It provided federal-state aid for the medically indigent.*

1961

- *A White House Conference on Aging was called by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare of the outgoing Eisenhower administration.*
- *The presidential Task Force on Health and Social Security for the American People recommended health insurance for the elderly under Social Security.*
- *Newly inaugurated President John F. Kennedy sent a special message to Congress on health.*
- *The King-Anderson bill, an early version of Medicare, was introduced in Congress. It did not progress beyond hearings in the Ways and Means Committee.*
- *The House approved Speaker Sam Rayburn's plan to increase the membership of the House Rules Committee, which had been bottling up liberal bills (including health bills) and preventing them from coming to a vote.*
- *The National Council of Senior Citizens for Health Care Through Social Security was formed in support of the King-Anderson bill.*
- *AMA members formed the American Medical Political Action Committee as a political arm to work against legislation it opposed.*

1962

- *President Kennedy made a televised speech in favor of what later was called Medicare before a crowd of senior citizens in Madison Square Garden. It was probably the worst speech of his career.*
- *Dr. Edward Annis replied for the AMA two days later in an incisive, televised speech to an empty (by design) Madison Square Garden.*
- *An attempt was made to attach a health insurance amendment (the Anderson-Javits amendment) to a welfare bill in the Senate. The amendment was tabled.*