

## Editorials

Government intervention is somewhat unpopular in the eyes of the medical profession, however, few will criticize the recent active interference of the Newfoundland Government in the area of medical education.

The Province of Newfoundland has initiated a financial aid plan for its pre-medical and medical students. Those who are assisted are obligated to work for the Newfoundland Government for at least four years in the system of "cottage hospitals" in the Province.

Mr. Smallwood's positive action demonstrates admirable long-term planning combined with an obvious understanding of student financial needs. He is meeting the acute shortage of doctors in his province with more than words—a most unusual situation in politics. Unfortunately, the shortage of medical personnel in the other Atlantic Provinces is equally severe, but no Government seems interested in changing this situation.

We firmly believe that some similar measure of support should be offered to the students of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island by their respective governments. This would not only insure that a greater number of doctors stays within the Maritime Provinces on graduation, but would also attract a larger number of suitable students to the study of medicine.

With the inevitability of a Government subsidized medical insurance plan becoming more obvious, it would seem appropriate that some measure of support be offered to those who will be working within this plan.

Newfoundland has demonstrated one solution to their problem, surely the other Atlantic Provinces will not allow their own medical shortage to continue without some positive action.

B.J.Y.

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