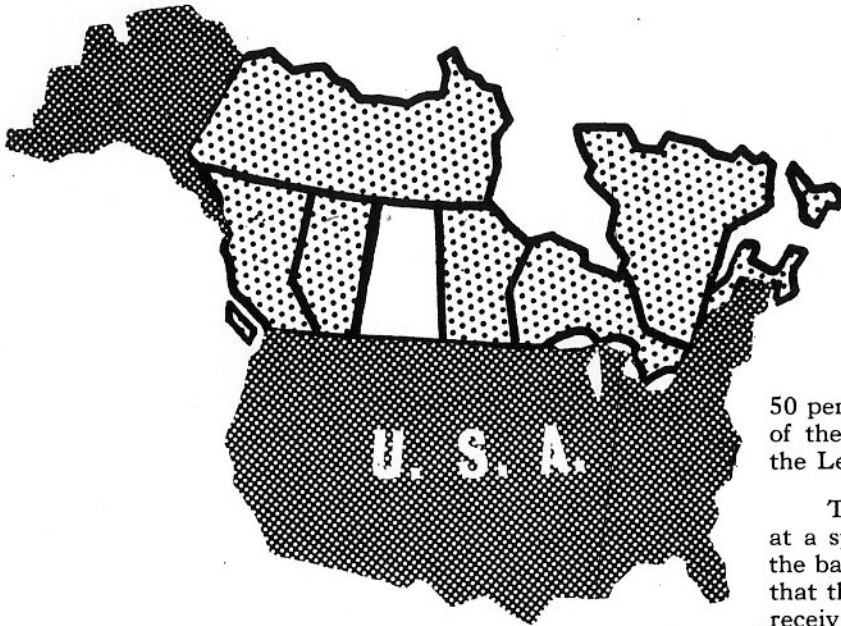# SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan, which established the first universal hospitalization insurance plan for all its residents in 1947, in Canada, was the logical province to give national leadership in establishing a universal medical care insurance.

Premier T. C. Douglas made medical care the issue in the Saskatchewan general election in June. 1960. Though he sought endorsation from more than 50 per cent of the voters, his CCF party obtained 40.8 per cent of the popular vote, but a strong majority, 38 of 55 seats in the Legislature.

The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act was passed at a special session in November, 1961. Unfortunately, one of the basic principles was not fulfilled. Mr. Douglas had promised that the plan would be acceptable to those giving and to those receiving aid.

The Act was not acceptable to the doctors, and the Act as amended in the regular session in the winter of 1961 was even less acceptable to the medical profession.

When Mr. Douglas became national leader of the New Democratic Party, he was succeeded by Mr. W. S. Lloyd in November, 1961. The following March 3, Premier Lloyd announced delay in launching the plan, scheduled for April 1, to July 1. One reason for the delay was that the administrative structure involved was more exacting and extensive than anticipated.

At this point, Ed Sebestyen, nationally known cartoonist of the Star-Phoenix, entered the picture. The government's difficulties, its feud with the doctors, and the increasing tempo of the crisis, challenged his interpretative skill.

So, for the record, here is his chronological cartoon commentary of the controversy . . . its highlights and sidelights, offered as a case history of the biggest argument in Saskatchewan's history.

PAT O'DWYER,
Chief Editorial Writer,
Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

T. C. Douglas

Hon. W. S. Lloyd

Ed Sebestyen

Sebestyen, Edmund Alexander, 1930-2011

Variant Name(s)
Ed Sebestyen

Description
Edmund Alexander (Ed) Sebestyen was born on March 10, 1930, son of Denes and Theresa (Schell) Sebestyen. He completed his secondary education at the Saskatoon Technical Institute, where he was particularly inspired by art teacher, Ernest Lindner, and drafting teacher, Ernie Chan. He married Edna Regush in 1953, and they had three children: Theresa (Terri) in 1954; Charles (Chuck) Anthony in 1957; and Susanne in 1962.

Sebestyen was hired by the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix in 1949, where he worked as a photographer, engraver, editorial cartoonist, reporter, news editor, managing editor, marketing and general manager, and Executive Vice President (Planning and Corporate Development), until he retired in 1991. His earliest job at the Star-Phoenix was engraving zinc plates to be used in the printing process. He tried his hand at drawing a few editorial cartoons that were well-received by the paper's editorial staff, and this developed into work as the Star-Phoenix's first and only full-time editorial cartoonist (c. 1957-1964). Sebestyen recalled this period as the best of his newspaper career.

Sebestyen and the Star-Phoenix published four books of his editorial cartoons: An Assortment of Sebestyen Cartoons from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (1959); Another Assortment of Sebestyen Cartoons from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (1960); and I (1961); and Is There A Doctor In The House: A Case History, In Cartoons, on Saskatchewan's Medical Care Plan (1962).

In 1993, Sebestyen was made a member of the Order of Canada for being an "energetic community builder who has spent his life promoting the city as the locale for many national events." Along with the Order of Canada, he won numerous service medals and citizenship awards for chairing or holding executive roles on organization and bid committees for events such as the 1989 Western Canada Summer Games, the 1971 and 1989 Jeux Canada Games, the 1975 Western Canada Summer Games, the 1985 Tennis Federation Cup, the 1989 Labatt's Brier, the 1990 World Junior Hockey Championship, and was known as the "the man behind the mountain" for having been instrumental in having Mount Blackstrap built for the 1971 Canada Winter Games.

Ed Sebestyen died in Saskatoon on December 4, 2011.

F 379
Edmund Alexander Sebestyen fonds

Dates of Creation
1957-1964, 2005

Physical Description
1287 drawings
0.040 textual records
2 objects (engraving plates) : zinc
2 photographs

Scope and Content
The Edmund Alexander Sebestyen fonds consists of 1287 original ink cartoon drawings on drawing board, the artwork for editorial cartoons that Sebestyen prepared for the Saskatoon StarPhoenix from c. 1957-1964 (published in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan). The fonds also includes 1197 microfilm copies of the cartoons made from microfilm of the Star-Phoenix, showing both caption and date of publication for each cartoon. Ninety of the cartoons do not have captions or dates.

The fonds also includes two sample sets which show the full process involved in creating and publishing an editorial cartoon in this period at the Star-Phoenix: the preliminary sketch which would have been submitted to the Star-Phoenix editorial team for approval; the original ink drawing; an actual size print of the artwork; the zinc engraving used on the press to print the cartoon; and an original news clipping of the editorial cartoon as it was published in the Star-Phoenix.

The fonds also includes a photograph of Ed Sebestyen, ca. 1958-1960, working at his drawing board, and a photograph of Ed Sebestyen standing next to the boxes containing his donation to the Saskatchewan Archives Board, October 5, 2005.

Finally, the fonds includes published compilations of Sebestyen's cartoons: An Assortment of Sebestyen Cartoons from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (1959), introduced by Eric Knowles, Editor, Saskatoon Star-Phoenix; Another Assortment of Sebestyen Cartoons from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (1960), introduced by Ernest Lindner, artist and art instructor at the Saskatoon Technical Collegiate; Third Annual Assortment of Sebestyen Cartoons from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix(1961) and Is There A Doctor In The House: A Case History, In Cartoons, on Saskatchewan's Medical Care Plan (1962) (photocopy only), both introduced by Pat O'Dwyer, Chief Editorial Writer, Star-Phoenix.

Administrative History or Biographical Sketch
Edmund Alexander (Ed) Sebestyen was born on March 10, 1930, son of Denes and Theresa (Schell) Sebestyen. Sebestyen was hired by the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix in 1949, where he worked as a photographer, engraver, editorial cartoonist, reporter, news editor, managing editor, marketing and general manager, and Executive Vice President (Planning and Corporate Development), until he retired in 1991. He died in Saskatoon on December 4, 2011.

Restrictions on Access
Records are open for research use.

Terms For Use and Reproduction
Use, publication, and/or reproduction of records are subject to terms and conditions of the Copyright Act.

Physical Condition
Records are in good physical condition.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Ed Sebestyen donated these records to the Saskatoon office, Saskatchewan Archives in two accessions in 2005: S2005-40 (October 5, 2005) and S2005-62 (November 21, 2005).

Associated Material
Original published copies of Ed Sebestyen's Is There A Doctor In The House: A Case History, In Cartoons, on Saskatchewan's Medical Care Plan (1962) are available at a number of libraries in Saskatchewan and in Canada, including the University of Saskatchewan Library (Special Collections) and the Saskatoon Public Library (Local History Room.)

Notes
Location for retrieval: Saskatoon - Murray.

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Arrangement
Order reflects arrangement by the creator of the records. While this arrangement is mostly chronological, there are a few drawings that have been filed out of chronological order.

Former Codes
Photographs: S-B13598, S-B13599.

Finding Aid
SAFA 233 consists of a fonds description and an item level listing of all records.