

# What part did the new NHS play in creating the Welfare State?

## **Aim:**

To understand the role played by the NHS in delivering Clement Attlee & Nye Bevan's plans for a welfare state



The NHS was created in 1948 following WW2 by the Labour government. The main aim of the NHS was to **bring health care to the entire nation** regardless of social class or wealth, **for FREE at the point of use**. The creation of the NHS was the biggest GOVERNMENT intervention in society – ever!

It took over existing hospitals and medical services, including doctors and surgeons, paying them a salary meaning the doctors worked for the government now not for themselves...

***Why might this cause some opposition from the doctors and surgeons?***

**What was health care like before 1948, and what is the main difference since the NHS?**

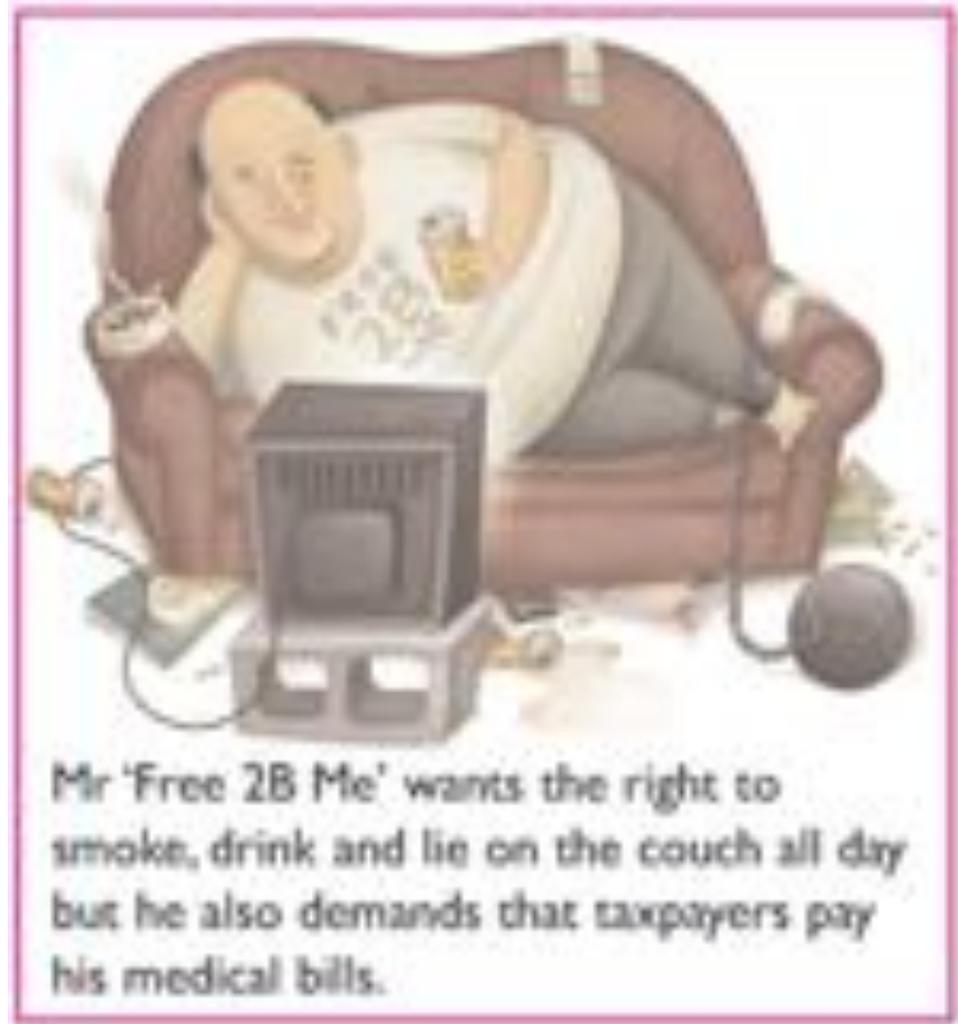
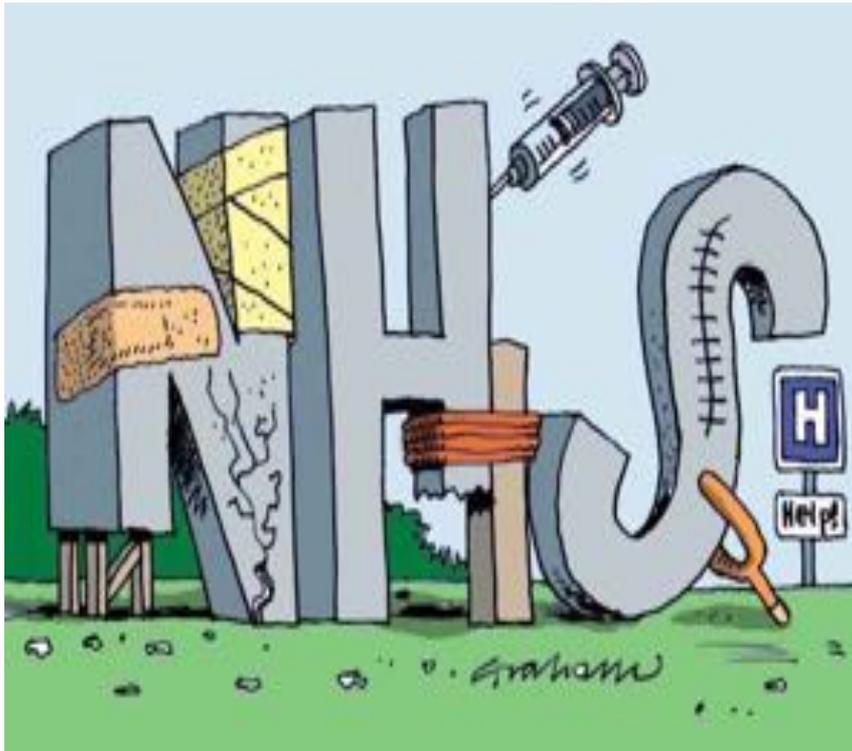




What services does the NHS provide? Make a list in your book:



What problems do these images represent? Are they accurate?



Mr 'Free 2B Me' wants the right to smoke, drink and lie on the couch all day but he also demands that taxpayers pay his medical bills.

What were the initial problems with the new NHS?

Create a mind map as we discuss the initial problems...

Initial Problems:

## What is the NHS's biggest problem to deal with? And why?

Most hospitals were in London or the South East, leaving many people out of reach

Women at home raising families were previously not entitled to treatment. Children could now be treated for minor problems before any lasting damage

Britain had very little money following WW2. The country was damaged so investing in medical care was even more difficult

Opposition from doctors and surgeons who worried they would lose pay having to work for the government not themselves

### Initial Problems:

The Government was now responsible for nearly 3000 hospitals, many of which were old and in need of upgrading

Many GP surgeries needed modernised as well as raising standards of GPs with new training and the latest research.

More and more people were now visiting their GPs leading to massive waiting times and appointment delays



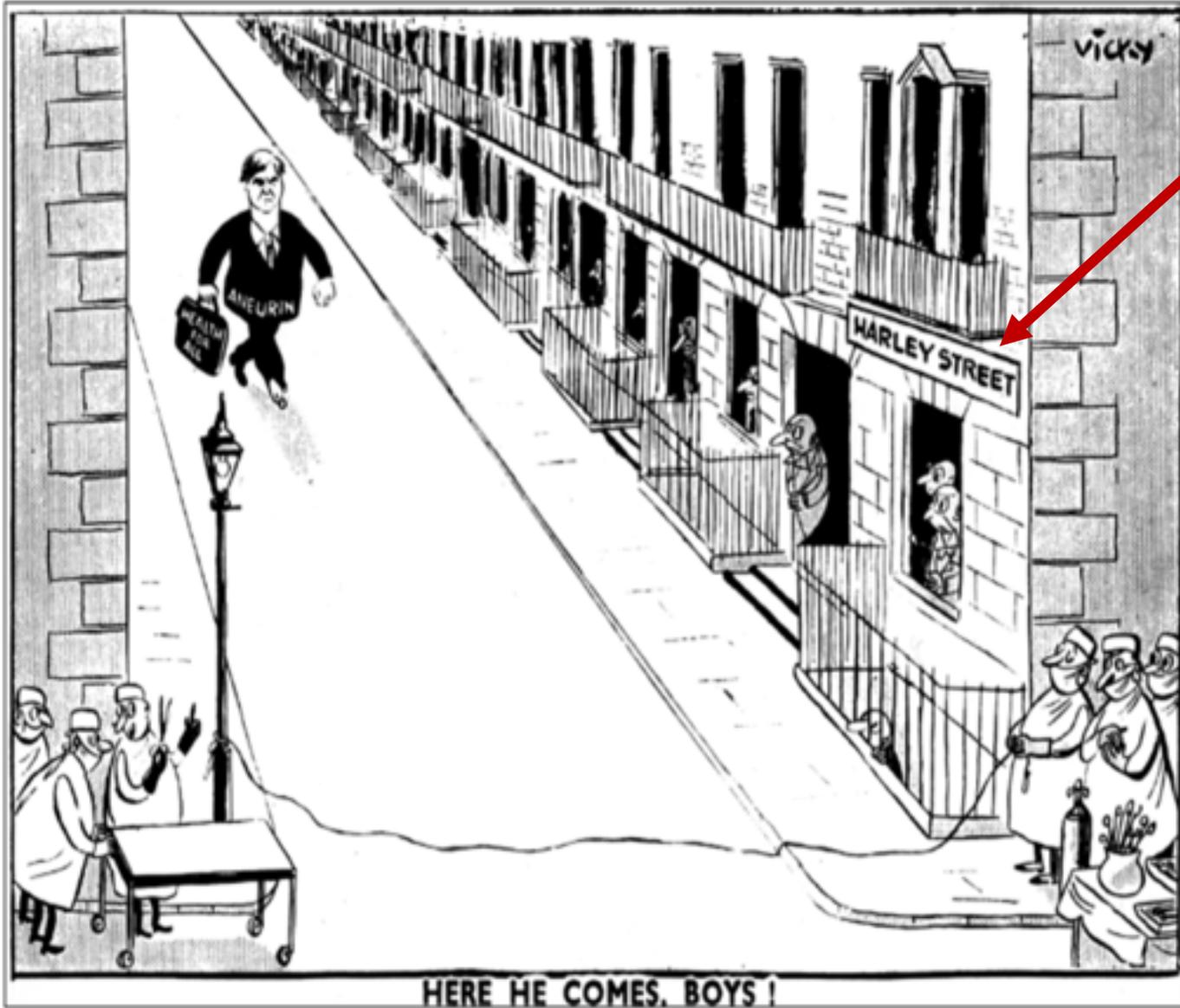
Stick your sources in your book and annotate around it what it is showing and why you think it means.

Note: MD means Medical Doctor

From Punch magazine, 1948:

‘It tastes awful,’

Nye Bevan, Minister of Health giving the doctors unpleasant medicine



Harley Street is a street in London where the rich and famous go for private health or cosmetic surgery

Cartoon from the Daily Mirror, May 1946

7 August 1945, Mr Nye Bevan's appointment as Minister of Health is not welcome in certain circles

Watch this documentary asking the question What would Britain be like today without the NHS. You can make some quick notes in the back of your book if you feel you need to or to ask about later.

The NHS A Troubled Start documentary

[https://youtu.be/5ye\\_szK1Yc0](https://youtu.be/5ye_szK1Yc0)



In c.1900, most sick people were still cared for in the home by women. Doctors had to be paid and so were only used for serious illness.

The situation improved **slowly** during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1919, the **government** set up the Ministry of Health to help determine the level of health across the country.

In 1948, the NHS made medical services FREE at the point of service. This gave EVERYBODY access to medical care and treatment.

However, the **introduction of the NHS** made it clear, once and for all, that hospitals were just for treating the sick, in earlier periods, hospitals had been places for the elderly to rest.