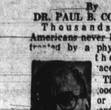
HEALTH IN ACTION

Training of minority doctors lags behind population rise

By DR. PAUL R. CORNELY

Thousands of black Americans never have been treated by a physician of their own race.



DR. PAUL CORNELY

There is a good reason for this, according to a study made by Dr. M. Edred Haynes, project director of the National Medical Association Foundation.

Only two percent of the physicians in the country are black, Dr. Haynes says in his paper, "The Distribution of Black Physicians in the United States, 1967."

While serious efforts are being made nationwide to overcome this severe shortage of black physicians, a second reason why many people never see a black doctor — most of them graduates of just two medical schools — is that by and large they practice in concentrated areas, often in the largest cities.

Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, graduated 83 percent of our black physicians, now estimated at about 6,000.

Other United States medical schools turned out 15 percent of the black doctors and the remainder studied in Canadian or other foreign schools.

Black medical students against 9.5 percent.

Two other comparative figures show that 73 percent of black physicians, against 65 percent of all doctors, are in private practice, and that 9 percent have leaned heavily on Midwestern medical schools when turning to predominantly white institutions.

These schools are led by the University of Illinois, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Indiana University, Ohio State University, New York University Harvard, Northeastern University, Loma Linda University and Chicago Medical School.

Despite the location of the schools they attended, black physicians today have concentrated their practices in California, New York and the District of Columbia.

As neither California nor New York trained significant numbers of black physicians, these apparently attractive centers have benefitted from migration. Dr. Haynes' study shows Howard University grads tend to practice in New York while Meharry's choose California.

About 17 percent of Howard's graduates remain in the Capital but only 7 percent of Meharry's stay in Tennessee.

States like Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas have fewer black physicans today than they had in 1942. California has nine times as many now as then.

Thirty-nine percent of all black physicians are in general practice, a higher ratio than for whites. They also are less likely to practice in groups than physicians in general, 2 percent of black physicians, as contrasted to 16 percent for all, are in training programs.

Black physicians have followed the trend of white physicians and have become specialists rather than general practitioners. Sixty-one percent work as specialists, but they make up only from 1 to 4 percent of doctors who specialize.

The most common specialty is internal medicine, followed by general surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Twenty-two percent of black physicians and 31 percent of all doctors are board certified.

Women make up 8 percent of the black physicians practicing today.

What all this adds up to is that the training of black physicians is not keeping pace with population growth, and, a greater effort must be made to get more black men and women into medicine.

* * *

The major universities have to take a look at the situation and see what they can do to help.

There must be an expanded pool from which medical students can be chosen. The 100 or so predominantly white medical schools have to begin working closer with colleges and high schools within their states to encourage more black students to come into medicine.

What are you doing to see to it that the medical school in your state is working toward this effort? Have you asked the dean what he is doing with the colleges in his area?

In addition to getting blacks into medicine, we have to get them in the allied health professions. The health industry is the second largest in the country, employing from 4 to 5 million people. What are your counsellors in high schools doing to steer young people into this area?

Lakeview Tower opens with features for elderly

Formal opening ceremonies for Lakeview Tower, the first public housing in Baltimore to be designed solely for elderly persons, was held Monday.

Robert C. Embry Jr., commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, said that nearly 60 of the 101 apartments at Lakeview are already occupied and that "more tenants are coming in every day."

During Monday's ceremonies, Joel Y. Zenitz, one of the developers of Lakeview Tower, presented a ceremonial "key" to the building to Mr. Embry.

In turn, the commissioner presented the key to William H. Edmonds, who became Lakeview's first resident when he moved into the high-rise at Druid Hill Lake Drive and Lakeview Avenue on Jan. 9.

Mr. Edmonds, who is 68, is retired, a pinochle enthusiast and came to Lakeview from the George B. Murphy Homes public housing development.

A reception for residents and guests was held on the top floor of the 15-story building.

* * *

All apartments have individual balconies, small but separate kitchens and emergency call switches which light signals for help both outside the tenants' doors and in the first-floor manager's office.

The apartments also have extra-wide doors to accommodate wheelchairs, grab-rails in the bathrooms and resilient tiling, to prevent residents from slipping.

There are 56 one-bedroom apartments at Lakeview Tower and 105 efficiencies, L-shaped units designed for comfortable separation of living and sleeping space.

* * *

There are two community rooms on the first floor, one leading onto a walled terrace with benches, shuffleboard and a planter and the other including a kitchen that may be used for meetings and parties.

A laundry room for use of the tenants is located on the fifteenth floor, along with two more community rooms and a "promenade" where residents may walk or sit and enjoy their views of the city and of Druid Hill Lake reservoir.

In the rear of the building, above-ground parking has been provided for 26 cars along with an underground garage for an additional 24.

* * *

Lakeview Tower was constructed under the "turnkey" system. It was built by a private developer according to previously established specifications and then sold, when completed, for use as public housing. Lakeview, which cost $2,557,860.95, was built by the Urban Development Company and Associates, of Baltimore.

The firm is headed by Mr. Zenitz and Alvin E. Greenfeld. The architect for the brown-red brick building was Morris H. Steinhorn; Frank F. Favazza and Son, Inc., was the contractor.

Richard H. Chrystie, a 16-year Housing Authority staff member who has shown a special interest in the problems of the elderly, will manage Lakeview Tower, Mr Embry said.

He will also manage the 35 townhouses in the recently-opened Oswego Mall public housing development, at Oswego and Shirley Aves.

A former management aide at Latrobe Homes and then at Brooklyn Homes, Mr. Chrystie has been manager at Latrobe since June, 1960.

Two other public housing facilities for the elderly are now under construction. One is the Broadway, in East Baltimore, where 330 of a total of 429 units will be available to older residents. The other is the high-rise portion of McCulloh Homes Extension, designed to provide 346 dwelling units for the elderly.

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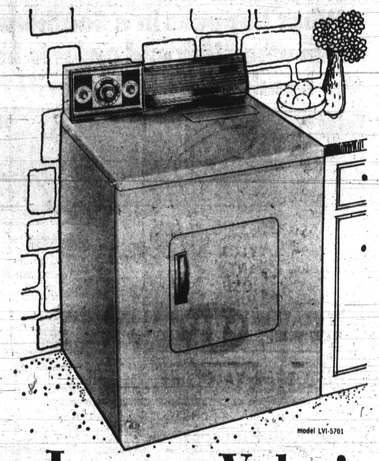

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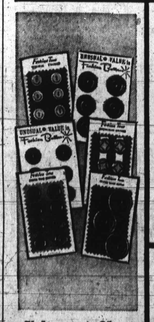

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Judge Carswell questioned on gift to Dixie country club

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Supreme Court Nominee G. Harrold Carswell denied under opposition questioning Wednesday that he knowingly tried to preserve segregation during a brief 1956 association with a Tallahassee, Fla., country club.

During his second day as a witness at a Senate confirmation hearing, Carswell was pressed about his motive in contributing $100 to convert the golf facility from a city country club to a private one.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., strongly suggested that the conversion was a deliberate scheme to avoid ending race barriers at the club.

Carswell said he had never discussed the segregation situation with anyone and that he "didn't assume anything" about the matter.

He acknowledged that he was aware that "the same practice was going on elsewhere and was being challenged in the courts" but he said he was not "preoccupied in examining country club practices."

* * *

Carswell's Senate supporters had hoped to end the hearings this week, but opposition witnesses wanted time to study Carswell's decisions during his 11 years on the federal district bench in Florida before becoming circuit judge in June.

Also, the nine black members of the House asked for permission to testify against Carswell.

Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., said he was mystified by President Nixon's selection of a nominee with "a racist background" when he had 200,250 attorneys and 439 federal judges in the country to choose from.

In addition, Walter P. Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, sent a telegram to the 17 members of the Senate Judiciary Committee urging them to reject Carswell as an associate justice.

During testimony Wednesday, Carswell said he had no doubts about the law of the land being "pretty well set" on ending racial segregation in the nation's schools. The nominee added he would follow precedents set by the courts on such questions.

* * *

Carswell received permission to present papers about his membership in the Florida country club. The judge resigned from the club a few months after joining, receiving $75 of the $100 he had contributed.

But whether Carswell, now a judge of the U.S. 5th Court of Appeals, but then a U.S. attorney, was active in organizing the club was in controversy.

The club eventually took over a city-owned golf course and operated it on a segregated basis when court-ordered integration of public facilities threatened its all-white status.

Carswell first testified he had nothing to do with organizing the club, that he was not a golfer, and that he made his only contribution at the request of a friend, Julian C. Smith, "to help fix up a run-down clubhouse."

But Smith said in Tallahassee the reason for converting the club from public to private status was to avoid integration. "It was in the back side of our minds, I would say," Smith said.

Carswell later backtracked when club records listing him as both a director and incorporate were cited.

"Whatever the record shows — whether I was president, director, incorporator or potentate or whatever — I had no conversations with anyone regarding any discriminatory practices," he testified Tuesday.

Clark challenge seeks truth on King wiretap

NEW YORK (UPI) — Former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark challenged the U.S. Government Tuesday to tell the American people whether the FBI wiretapped the phones and hotel rooms of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in order to "destroy a great leader."

Writing on "the death of privacy" in McCall's Magazine, the Johnson Administration cabinet member said since King's assassination "rumors have spread that tapes from bugs secretely installed in hotel rooms used by Dr. King were played to publishers, senators, and others."

"The people of the United States should know whether this is true," he wrote. "Their government should tell them. The motives for such acts by the FBI, if true, are terribly dangerous.

"The purpose could be to destroy a great leader, and as a consequence divide the nation." Charging that surreptitious police surveillance of such a man as King "is the act of an incipient police state." Clark said in his opinion electronic eavesdropping is "clearly irrelevant to most crime — murder, mugging, robbery, raper, burglary and theft."

"Eavesdropping brings out the worst in human nature," he said. "It is used to seek unknown facts about known people. Often it is guided by the prejudices of those who would overhear." Clark termed privacy as "the ultimate freedom."

"Only with privacy can we do whatever we will, so long as we do not interfere with others exercising the same liberty," he wrote. "Only in privacy do we achieve the most joyous personal relationships that, full of understanding and faith, become love, be it with mother, husband, child or friend."

Tax policy no longer ices prices

UPI

Federal spending and taxation policies are losing some of their anti-inflationary impact despite the Nixon administration's efforts to hold the line on the budget, the Commerce Department said this week.

The economic restraint produced by an excess of federal income over spending "achieved its peak intensity in the first half of 1969 and then eased somewhat in the second half and should lessen progressively during 1970," the department said.

In its monthly survey of current business, the department said the increase in Social Security payments already approved by Congress, the reduction of the income surtax 5 per cent on Jan. 1, and a possible government pay increase will combine to make the budget less deflationary this year.

The report showed the federal budget was running a surplus at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $13.5 billion in the last six months of 1969, but the surplus dropped to $7.7 billion in the third quarter and slipped again in the fourth quarter.

Complete figures for the last three months are not yet available.

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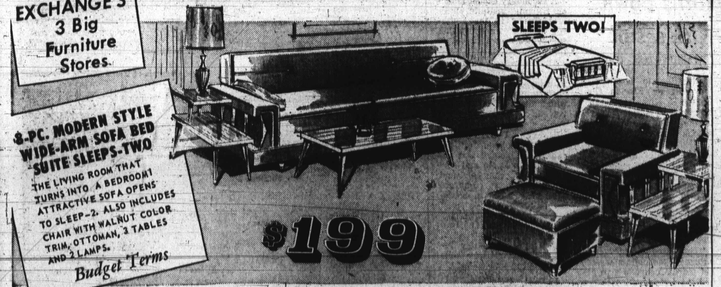

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