GIANT DRUG INDUSTRY HAS COLOR CANCER

By A. N. SAID

It is elementary that a person who is ill must see a doctor if he wants to get well.

This statement is not as simple as it sounds. One does not get well by simply seeing a doctor. What does the job is the medicine that the physician prescribes.

To get the medicine, Americans spend millions of dollars every year, making the drug industry one among the richest industries in the nation.

On the other hand, the industry prospers because of the millions of dollars that the people spend on its products.

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IT IS A fact that the products have cured or brought relief to many ill people.

Now it seems that the industry itself is in need of a super pill that will cure its sick employment policy.

In case you don't know, the drug industry has been suffering from a bad disease known as discrimination. This was disclosed recently by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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AFTER EXTENSIVELY studying the employment patterns in the drug industry, the Commission made public its findings at a recent meeting.

The meeting, held Oct. 6 in Washington, was attended by 24 top executives of the drug industry and officials of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

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THE EEOC report cited discrimination against colored workers in white collar positions and a general absence of colored workers for higher-paid positions and in blue collar jobs.

It was revealed that out of 76,329 white collar workers only 1,346 or 1.8 percent were colored.

In the blue collar category, only 3,454 or 8.6 percent were non-white out of a total of 40,292.

In terms of overall employment in the drug industry, colored workers numbered only 7,101 out of a total of 133,735 — a mere 5.3 percent. (Figures based on 398 establishments filing 1966 employment reports with EEOC).

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FOR EXAMPLE, in the nine metropolitan areas which account for 62 percent of 1966 employment, only 4,379 or 5.3 percent out of 82,587 persons were colored workers.

The nine areas account for at least 12.3 percent of the colored population, according to 1960 census. The colored population in these areas have increased tremendously since.

The nine major areas are Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New York, Newark, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

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THE EEOC STUDY was based on 1966 employment patterns. However, things haven't changed much.

The industry's colored workers still face discrimination at the time when the drug industry is making great financial gains.

According to EEOC report, the drug industry experienced the most growth in the period of 1958-65. Long term growth prospects remain favorable.

During this period the industry has benefited from several government restrictions on importations of foreign drugs which have assured domestic producers over 90 percent of all shipments.

Expenditures for drugs are expected to rise sharply in the years ahead. This is due to rising personal income, health standards and population.

Despite this great prosperity, the industry has managed to make only a token employment to black Americans.

Even in jobs that do not require advanced education and specialized training, colored workers are much underrepresented.

The smallest representation is in the field of sales — only 91 persons (0.6 percent) out of 15,726 salesmen.

It is amazing, but true, that the giant drug industry doesn't have enough colored salesmen to cover the 200,000 colored doctors and dentists in the nation.

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NATIONWIDE, the colored population is close to 30,000,000. The drug industry knows that they spend tremendous amount on pharmaceutical products. Yet it hasn't given them a fair share in terms of providing employment on equal basis as required by EEOC.

Up until now the industry has turned a deaf ear to job complaints and did very little to improve its policies.

This is a fact that can not be denied because it is shown in black and white on the EEOC report.

THAT'S WHY the 24 executives of the drug industry, representing more than 70 percent of the nation's drug business, were warned to either put an end to the widespread job discrimination or face strong action by the Federal government.

The ultimatum was tough and clear. "Let us make no mistake about it," warned Clifford L. Alexander Jr., chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"It is action we seek," he said. "No such action is possible without the commitment of top industry management. But commitment alone does not create action. That's why we hope that follow-up programs will translate commitment into action."

He further assured the executives, "let us be clear that we do not advocate a slackening in your quality control to facilitate equal employment opportunity; but we will certainly call on you to recognize that a legitimate concern for quality control becomes a fetish when applied to the many jobs in your industry not directly concerned with critical points in the production process."

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CITING the EEOC report, Alexander chided the drug industry for not complying with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

He demanded that the industry comply with Title VII and voluntarily end job discrimination. "Your shining record in promoting the nation's physical health ought not be tarnished by a disregard for symptoms in your own industry of the virtual cancer threatening the nation's economic and social health," he said.

"Let us agree here today that you industry leaders will take steps not just to proclaim at large that the gates of opportunity are open, but to make certain the message is heard by those whom years of experience have taught to be skeptical. Steps which will demonstrate that behind the open door there is more than just a waiting room," Alexander told executives of the drug industry.

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IT IS UP to the drug industry now to start taking the medicine prescribed by the government and start correcting its sick employment policy.

The Federal Government's notice leaves only two alternatives: either voluntarily end discrimination or the government will end it by force.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

FREDRICK S. WEAVER

Weaver in Rome for Lay Congress

ROME—The World Congress for the Lay Apostolate opened here Wednesday (Oct. 11) and will continue Oct. 18.

The Congress has as its general U-Thant, spoke at the theme, "God's People on Man's Journey" and is seeking to stimulate and develop the apostolic activity of the Laity in the light of Council teachings and in relation to the problems and aspirations of modern man.

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ON HAND for the Congress is Frederick S. Weaver of New York City, who is covering the Congress exclusively for the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

Among other delegates at the Congress are Stanley Herbert, Washington, D. C., Dr. Eugene B. Perry, Houston, Texas, and Thomas Patrick Melady, Africa Service Institute, New York City.

Integration hailed

MILWAUKEE (NPI) — Integration of this city's fair housing ordinance has been praised by Alderman Vel Phillips, whose unpassed open occupancy ordinance remains a bone of contention. Mrs. Phillips, the city's only colored alderman, said the Milwaukee ordinance's strength was in its integration. "Those who preach separatism are wrong. We are stronger because we are black and white together," she said.

NEW YORK — Columbia University, Teachers College Graduate School, instructor ALGEA L. ADAMS began teaching a class in journalism for high school and college faculty advisers to school and college publications this week. Mr. Adams was added to the faculty of the institution upon the completion of his work for a Masters of Arts last June in Journalism. A colored appointment for the Department and one of the first in an Ivy League school in the field of journalism. He is cuurrently studying fo his doctorate.

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NORFOLK, Va. — **Salfo Albert Balima**, first officer of the Executive Office of Secretary-General U-Thant, spoke at the opening of All-Citizens Forum at Norfolk Division of Virginia State College, Sunday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. in the college's Little Theater. **Mr. Balima's** subject was "Change — Africa.

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GREENSBORO, N.C. — **Joe Larry Holt**, junior electrical engineering major at A and T State University, recently received an all-expense scholarship from Western Electric Company. The presentation was **H. G. Worley**, manager of the Greensboro, N.C. plant. **Holt** is a native of Greensboro.

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FORT BENNING, Ga. — **Mrs. Alen M. Miles** recently was presented a certificate and pin in recognition of 40 years of service at the Fort Benning Laundry. **Col. David G. Sherrard** deputy post commander, presented the award.

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OXFORD, Pa. — **Dr. Andrew E. Murray**, of Lincoln University's Department of Religion, has been announced as the winner of the first Francis Makemie Award by the Historical Foundation of MONTREAL, N.C. **Dr. Murray** was given the recognition for his book, "Presbyterians and the Negro — A History."

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DETROIT — **Donald M. Bagley**, 32, the coordinator for a local militant community organization was named director of an interfaith project sponsored by the North Woodward Interfaith Association. **Mr. Bagley**, is the new head of the North Woodward Interfaith Project, a grass roots program aimed at a small target area of 80,000 to 100,000 people.

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CHICAGO (NPI) — **Charles F. Williams**, a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute Business Barnett, director of driver education at the A and T State University; has been selected to serve on the nominating committee for the College Safety Education Division of the National Safety Council. The Committee will meet at Chicago's Knickerbocker Hotel Oct. 26. Others on the Committee are **Dr. Bob Nolan**, chairman; and **Dr. Otho J. Quick.**

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GREENSBORO, N.C. — **M/Sgt. Coyus L. Carroll**, operations sergeant for A and T State University's Army ROTC program, was awarded the Bronze Star for service in Vietnam by **Lt. Col. Herbert Parker**, professor of military science at the university. **Sgt. Carroll** served in Vietnam from May, 1966 to April, this year.

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SANFORD, Fla. (NPI)—**Lee A. Black**, a realtor and general contractor, recently passed the Florida mortgage brokerage examination and became the first colored mortgage broker in the state. A native of Central Florida and a graduate of Morgan State College, Baltimore, **Black** is licensed and bonded under the firm name of Housing Opportunity Mortgage Enterprises (HOME).

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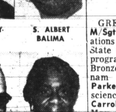
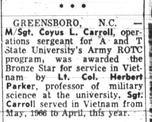
GREENSBORO, N.C. — **Issac**



JOE LARRY HOLT



S. ALBERT BALIMA

ALGER ADAM

MRS. ALLEN W. MILES

COLLEGES

OXFORD, Pa. — LINCOLN UNIVERSITY'S African Center is sponsoring a series of international film showings during the academic year. Included will be "Pom and Pom Pom Pom