Cancer Info

By Dr. Jack E. White

Jack E. White, M.D., is director of the Howard University Cancer Center, chairman of the Department of Oncology at Howard University College of Medicine and professor of surgery.

This article is brought to you by the Cancer Information Service, an outreach program of the Howard University-Georgetown University Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Send questions to CANCER INFO, Cancer Information Service, Suite 216, 1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, or call the Cancer Information Service at (202) 232-2833.

Q: "We have asbestos ceiling tiles in our house. Are these dangerous to live with?"

A: Asbestos is used quite a lot in the manufacture of building materials. The hazard associated with asbestos comes from loose asbestos particles floating in the air and being inhaled. In home building materials, the asbestos is 'bound' by another substance.

In general usage, asbestos particles would not become airborne. Having asbestos tile in your ceiling or asbestos siding on your house is not hazardous. If you are going to be working with the asbestos tiles or siding (cutting, sawing, drilling), it is necessary to take certain precautions to keep from inhaling asbestos particles. You can tie a hankerchief or a gauze mask over your mouth and nose — this will help prevent inhalation of asbestos. Also, asbestos dust can be kept down by keeping the asbestos tiles or siding wet, while working with it.

Q: "What is the new blood test that can tell if you have cancer?"

A: You are probably talking about CEA (carcinoembryonic antigen) test. This test measures the level of CEA in the blood. It is being used along with other tests in the diagnosis and management of cancer.

It is used mainly, in combination with other

A: No. Cancer is not catching (contagious).

Q: "My husband has a dark spot on his back that has been coming and going for 3 years. This last time, it has been there for for about 6 weeks and is getting a little larger. Could this be cancer?"

A: The warning signs of skin cancer include any change in the size, shape or color of a wart or mole. There also are changes in the pigmentation (color) of the skin that take place as a natural part of aging. This 'dark spot' on your husband's back should be seen by a doctor.

The doctor will examine the spot, and, if necessary, biopsy it (take a tissue sample for microscopic examination). Having it examined by a doctor is the only way to find out what it is and what is causing it.

Q: "What is the name for the kind of cancer that only strikes children — nephro-something? And can you tell me something about it?"

A: Nephroblastoma, or Wilm's Tumor, is a type of kidney cancer found in young children. It has been diagnosed in children as young as 6½ months, but most commonly occurs in 3-4 year olds. The first symptom usually is an enlarged abdomen. It is diagnosed by X-ray.

In recent years, improved surgical techniques, along with radiation therapy and chemotherapy, have greatly improved survival rates for this disease. The use of drugs in various combinations, with surgery and radiation, has been encouraging. Long-term results of treatments for this disease are being evaluated by the National Wilm's Tumor Study Group (NWTSG).

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—Phil Smith's suit

(Continued from Page 1)

This means that should the action be successful, the millions of dollars spent by scores of candidates will be lost.

Kandel also says he will immediately move the legal action into Federal Court and ask the United States government to assume jurisdiction.

The sponsor of the 1978 legislation was East Baltimore's Senator Robert Douglass. It was signed by the Acting Governor Blair Lee III on Feb. 20, 1978.

At first the Douglass sponsored legislation passed the 1977 General Assembly and did require that the names and addresses of purged voters be published in newspapers 30 days before removal.

However, the record of the 1978 General Assembly Action taken by Sen. Douglass is recorded in the Circuit Court files as follows:

In 1977 the General Assembly by Chapter 896 of the Laws of 1977 amended Section 3-20 by adding the following sentence to the end of Section 3-20 (a):

"In addition, in Baltimore City the names and last known street addresses of those voters whose registration is to be cancelled shall be published in a local newspaper of general circulation one month prior to the date of removal."

"The sponsor of this legislation, Senator Douglass, determining that such legislation was a mistake, lobbied to have it repealed in the very next session of the General Assembly. He was successful in this effort and by Chapter 2 of the Laws of 1978 amended Section 3-20 (a) to read as follows:

"(1) If a registered voter has not voted at least once at a primary, general or special election within the five preceding calendar years, it shall be the duty of the board or the board of permanent registry unless cause to the contrary be shown, to cause the registration of that voter to be cancelled by removing the registration cards or forms of the voter from the original and duplicate files and placing them in a transfer file.

The record defending the Elections Board's actions says:

This change was enacted as emergency legislation, effective immediately. It was signed by the Governor on February 20, 1978.

Thus when the Board of Election Supervisors of Baltimore City sent notices to approximately 58,000 persons on February 28, 1978 the Board was acting pursuant to Article 33, Section 3-20 as amended by Chapter 2 of the Laws of 1978.

Accordingingly, the Board's failure to publish in a local newspaper the names and addresses of voters whose registration was to be cancelled, was not in any way illegal as alleged in the Bill of Complaint.

B. Defendants' February 28, 1978 Action Pursuant to the Statute was Neither Discriminatory Nor Politically Motivated; Other Localities in the State of Maryland Have Consistently Undertaken Similar Activity.

Based upon the above recorded legislation, David Preller, chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Elections contends that the failure to publish names of voters is legal and notification by mail to each ones last address is sufficient.

Preller also states in his answer to Smith's allegations that the actions taken by the board were legal and that the Smith suit should be dismissed by the court.

He states that attempts to remove voters who have not voted in the last five years from the list is not illegal, based on race nor racially motivated.

Smith earlier contended in his original suit filed in June that he is deprived of votes because the purged voter list contained mainly voters who reside in the inner city.

Preller says every voter regardless of race was subjected to cancellation unless proper cause to the contrary is shown.

He further stated that cancellation of voters is done every year since the original statue was in effect prior to the Douglass amendment.

Smith contends further that the figures submitted by Preller show that each primary election year when a governor must be chosen, the purge list goes up.

Here are the figures:

"Five Year Pull: Number of voters removed as per section 3-

1973 — 67,234 (governor's election year)
1975 — 6,495
1976 — 11,113
1978 — 57,607 (governor's election year)

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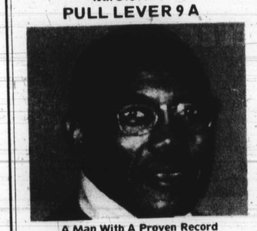

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- Bill #330, amended the Maryland Merit System Law granting suspended State employees the right to appeal directly to the Commissioner of Personnel.
- Bill #460, covers all employees in non-profit institutions and organizations under the Maryland Workman's Compensation Law.
- Bill #1079, made it mandatory that meat used in hamburger shall be fresh ground beef.
- Bill #1253, requires dealers who sell mini bikes to inform potential buyers that they can only ride them on private property.

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Authority: C. Brailey, Treasurer

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