

'WISH I COULD TURN YOU INTO

By LEAHMON L. REID

Disgusted with the snail-paced action and the evasiveness of Health, Education and Welfare officials in eliminating discriminatory practices in Southern hospitals, 75 Negro physicians and dentists from eight states met in Atlanta and demanded an "open door" policy at all hospitals receiving federal funds. Feeling rebuffed, the medics mapped plans for and threatened dramatic action if HEW officials fail to present some immediate and definite plans for forcing southern hospitals to comply with the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The group, called together by Atlanta Doctors Committee on Implementation of Civil Rights Act's Title 6, also demanded that all discrimination barriers be removed in the training of nurses and technicians. Their group of demands were later incorporated into an eight-point declaration of resolutions, which not only demanded removal from office those persons serving on



Leading attack against hospital bias are Atlanta medics (l-r) James B. Ellison, Albert Davis, Otis Smith and Roy Bell.

Measles A Major Child Disease, Officials Warn

The president of the National Assn. for Retarded Children (NARC), Thomas A. Tucker, warned parents against believing that measles is a harmless childhood disease that nobody should worry about. Quite the contrary, contends Tucker. "It is actually the most deadly child killer of any infectious disease; 500 children in this country die of measles every year," he points out. Tucker strengthens his argument with these grim facts:

1) Four million children get measles every year. It can kill or leave lifelong after effects. 2) Of the 4,000 children who develop measles encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), about 1,600 become mentally retarded. 3) Children should be vaccinated as early as possible because almost half the measles cases occur in children under five years old. 4) Only 12 million children (most of them under two years old) have been vaccinated. Another 12 million must be vaccinated if measles is to be eradicated.

Has Sound Advice For Recruiting Negro Nurses

Johnene Danforth, a senior at the University of Colorado, voiced some sound opinions about recruitment of Negroes into the nursing profession. It is her opinion that not only have Negroes been dissuaded for years by high school counselors, but the nursing profession itself has been less than encouraging. "The formula which seems to work, is to convince members of minority groups that our profession needs and wants them, and there is a future—a fine future—for a skilled nurse," Miss Danforth said. She was a representative at the 70,000-strong National Student Nurses' Assn. convention in San Francisco.

Medic Advises Using Beautiful Women In War

Dr. Martin Bax of Oxford, England, and secretary of the Medical Assn. for the Prevention of War, suggested that beautiful women should be used in war because soldiers would find it difficult to kill them.

BLACK PEOPLE,' OFFICIALS TOLD



Chicago's Dr. Paul Boswell is joined by medics in picketing AMA to end racial exclusion to help break down hospital bias.

boards of hospitals who resisted integration, but demanded as well that federal funds be cut off from hospitals found out of compliance after HEW's re-investigation. Dr. R. C. Bell, a dentist, investigated conditions in Atlanta hospitals and discovered they had received federal funds for Medicare programs but alleged they had not complied with the civil rights guidelines. Dr. Bell headed a group from Atlanta who went to Washington and aired their findings and grievances before HEW officials who promised they would investigate Atlanta hospitals to determine whether or not they are in compliance with the Civil Rights Law. They promised to make known their recommendations last week. Four of the Washington officials were present at the Atlanta conference but did not state what they had learned to date.

"What sort of 'Burn, Baby, Burn' do you people under-

Resign Office, Medic Tells U.S. Officials

stand," Dr. Bell lashed out at HEW officials. "I wish I could turn you, you and you into black people! I wish I could turn your children into black children, your wives into black women and you into black doctors and send you down here in Georgia so you can understand the problems we face down here. You tell us there is a problem and that you're working on it . . . you told us that in Washington, and now you come down here and tell us the same thing . . . I think it is all a bunch of hogwash . . . You ought to resign your office because you have not shown any fortitude, you have not shown any honesty, nothing but evasiveness." HEW officials present were Dr. Leo J. Oherig, deputy surgeon general; Atty. N. J. LoBassi, new legal counselor; Robert J. Nash, new chief compliance officer, and Mrs. Sherrie Arnstein, staff assistant, office of the Secretary of HEW.

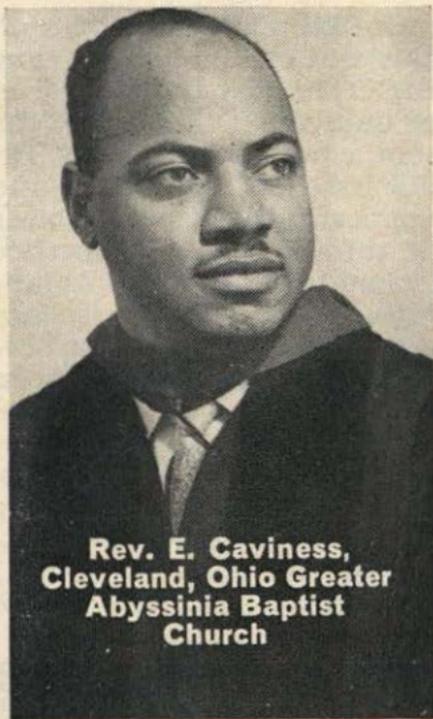
Two of the hospitals under fire by the Atlanta committee for noncompliance were Atlanta's Emory University Hospital and Georgia Baptist Hospital. A report disclosed that Emory University had strongly resisted compliance with the guidelines, had no Negro physicians with staff privileges, no Negro nurses in training and no medical or dental technicians in its training programs, yet had received a grant in excess of \$4 million in federal funds for its training program.

Dr. Leonidas H. Berry of Chicago, president of the National Medical Association, addressed the group, documented and highlighted the seriousness of discriminatory practices against Negro physicians. "Negro doctors have been on the American scene since colonial times," Dr. Berry said, "largely because, except for training purposes, white doctors preferred not to attend Negro patients until it became economically profitable in relatively recent years. This has occurred especially since the growth of hospital insurance," Dr. Berry noted. "Today the Negro doctor threatens to be bred out of existence as a professional entity. This could become a stark reality with increasing government and private hospital insurance sub-

sidies and increasing pressures to keep Negro doctors off the attending staffs of hospitals and on the bottom rung of the staff ladder, as a token." This may be possible in a relatively short time in these days when the care of the sick is becoming more and more a hospital necessity, Dr. Berry asserted. "When there is systematic exclusion and lack of professional growth opportunities on the basis of race, the total community suffers and this practice should no longer be tolerated in mid-20th Century America," he maintained. The meeting drew instant response from the neighboring Southern states where Negro doctors are faced with similar problems but had not been able to mobilize their forces or devise a plan of action. One dentist, 84-year-old Dr. Purvis W. Hill, who has been practicing in Clarksdale, Miss., for 44 years, felt so compelled to attend that he traveled the 398 mile distance by bus. Dr. Otis V. Smith is chairman of the doctors committee which has the support of the Atlanta Medical Assn., the North Georgia Dental Society, National Urban League, and SCLC.



Discussing Detroit's Clinic Day with wives of Drs. Lionel Swan (l) and Wilbur Martin, Dr. Berry keeps busy as NMA President.



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