



Vernon Jordan (center), executive Director of the National Urban League, is questioned by host and executive producer Tony Brown and co-host Melba Moore on the next edition of BLACK JOURNAL, aired locally February 8, at 6:00 p.m. on Channel 10.

BLACK JOURNAL

This edition of BLACK JOURNAL is dedicated to the American News, serving New York City, the largest Black community in the United States.

Melba Moore performs the title song from the Broadway musical "Purlie," in which her performance won her a Tony Award; discusses her recent concert appearances in Paris; and joins in the questioning of special guest Vernon Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League.

Jordan discusses the formation of the Urban League as a community service organization in 1910, its work with both Blacks and Whites, and its former executive director, the late Whitney Young.

Jordan denies feeling any pressure from people comparing his performance with that of Young's. "I'm humbled and proud to succeed Whitney. He has inspired me to do my own job in my own way."

Discussing busing, Jordan says, "I see busing as a response to a constitutional mandate to do away with dual unconstitutional school systems... busing means an opportunity for young Black children to have equal access to educational opportunities, an equal access they are now denied."

Vernon Jordan also talks about the Bicentennial celebration, stating, "Black people ought to participate in the Bicentennial, but on our own conditions. I'm not prepared to argue exclusivity when I've spent most of my professional career fighting for inclusion. We should remind this nation of Black musclepower -- this nation was built on the backs of Black men -- Black brain power and Black willpower." Jordan characterizes the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission as "a mishmash of disorganization and politics."

Also on BLACK JOURNAL: Music co-host Dr. Billy Taylor presents a tribute to jazz musician Fats Waller, discusses how, because of the element of improvisation, every jazz musician is a composer, and performs Waller's Jitterbug Waltz.

On film, Actor Arthur Burghardt, portraying abolitionist Frederick Douglass, recreates part of Douglass' famous 1852 Fourth of July address in Rochester, New York, in which he discusses the implications of any injustice, particularly slavery.

And Nipsy Russell once again rules over a session of "Can You Dig It?" the quiz game that challenges two contestants with questions about Black contributions to history and culture. This week's contestants are Bill Ford, a writer from California; and Patricia Lewis, import-export entrepreneur from Virginia.

Abuse cited at Conference on Human Experimentation

More than 200 scientists, government officials concerned lay persons and civil rights leaders departed from the Sheraton Conference Center in Reston, Virginia, last week to return to their respective communities throughout America with expanded knowledge on the subject of human experimentation, and its effects on minorities.

The First National Minority Conference on Human Experimentation was sponsored by the National Urban Coalition under a grant from the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research.

M. Carl Holman, President of the National Urban Coalition spoke of the deep concerns that conference participants had expressed about the disproportionate use and abuse of minorities and the poor in biomedical and behavioral research in the nation's hospitals, prisons, schools and other institutions.

Holman said, "Despite the short time span available to us and our inability to secure some of the people we had hoped to have, we have been gratified and amazed at the range, the quality and the commitment of the 218 individuals who have gathered here to agree and disagree, to share their experience and knowledge and to hammer out draft recommendations which we believe will be of great value to the National Commission, the Congress as well as practitioners and policy makers at the state and local levels."

The conference keynote address was delivered by Congressman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) who gave a historical account of psychosurgery in America and outlined details about legislation he has sponsored to prohibit the use of psychosurgery in federally financed institutions. Stokes' current bill would prohibit federal grants, contracts and loans to health care delivery institutions and correctional institutions performing psychosurgery.

Among the conference participants were two of the nation's Black neurosurgeons, Dr. Ernest A. Bates of the University of California and Dr. Jesse B. Barber of Howard University in Washington, D.C.; Attorney Fred Grey, the lawyer for 85 surviving Black syphilis patients who went untreated in Tuskegee, Alabama's veterans hospital for research purposes; Dr. William Liu, Director of The American Asian Mental Health Research Center, who presented a paper about human experimentation and Vietnamese refugees; Dr. Arturo Raya who presented a paper about experimentation and Spanish surnamed Americans and Dr. L. Alex Swan, Chairman of the Fisk University Department of Sociology. One conference participant remarked that this was perhaps the greatest concentration of experts in the field of human experimentation on minorities ever gathered.

The Commission heard reports from eight workshops whose participants had worked extensively throughout the conference to prepare preliminary draft recommendations on the subjects of psychosurgery, children, institutionalized and mentally infirm, prison, health care delivery, and special topics regarding human experimentation and minorities. Preliminary draft reports were varied and included recommendations for:

- a total ban on all psychosurgery
- a moratorium on psychosurgery research until government regulations can be instituted
- a ban on research of healthy children, prisoners and the retarded
- research teams to include percentages of minorities comparable to the number of minority patients

These draft recommendations will be compiled by the National Urban Coalition and submitted to the National Commission within thirty days of the closing of the conference.

Happiness Through Health

by Otto McClarrin



HEART TRANSPLANTS: Heart transplants have proven their worth in providing and improving life, a member of the Stanford University surgical team said recently in reporting "slightly improved" survival rates over the past three years.

Dr. Sharon Hunt, a member of the team that is now in the heart transplant field, predicted other major centers will resume the operations within five years. "Our results are now roughly comparable to kidney transplant survival rates," she said at a meeting of the American Heart Association.

Of the 90 persons who have received new hearts at Stanford, she said 32 are still alive and five have lived more than five years. The longest Stanford survivor is alive six years after the operation. The Stanford team, headed by Dr. Norman Shumway, has achieved a one-year survival rate of 47 percent, said Dr. Hunt. For patients who survive the first three months, the rate climbs to 76 percent.

The three-year survival rate is 37 percent for all patients and 59 percent for those who make it through the critical first three months, said Dr. Hunt. Heart transplantation has been abandoned in recent years by most medical centers as not being practical in view of the still-unsolved problem that kills most patients: infection and rejection by the body of the foreign part.

But Dr. Hunt said the operation "increases the length of survival in our carefully selected group of patients." That group is made up of very sick heart patients usually bed-ridden, who have a predicted life span of about six months.

The operation "clearly improves the quality of life in surviving patients," she said, noting that of 53 patients who made it through the first three months 48 were able to resume vigorous activity with no symptoms -- unless death occurred from some complication. Asked why the Stanford team has continued to perform transplants when others have given them up, Dr. Hunt replied, "We have the money it takes to get good results."

CANCEROUS MOLES: Recent studies show that the rate of cancerous moles is increasing rapidly among light-skinned people on areas of the body exposed more to sunlight because of changing life styles. Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the Harvard Medical School, said this is especially true among people born after 1920, "Implying that the young people of the last decade spend more time out of doors and wear less clothing."

Cancerous moles, known medically as malignant melanomas, represent a relatively uncommon but very dangerous form of skin cancer that most often affect people between the age of 20 and 60. A total of 9,000 new cases were expected in the United States this year.

As an example of the apparent link between sunlight and melanomas on newly exposed body areas, Dr. Fitzpatrick said, "There is a striking increase in the death rate from melanomas on the legs of females since nylon stockings replaced light-opaque stockings or long dresses in the last three decades."

NEW INFLUENZA STRAIN: Sporadic cases of a new influenza strain that had killed 600 people in New Guinea are expected in the United States this winter. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta said the strain, called A-Victoria, is a variant of older forms of Asian flu such as Port Chalmers and A-Scotland.

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