



RUBY SAYS

by
Ruby Duncan

In my column of August 19th, I reported on some questions concerning health care that were presented to the last Welfare Board Meeting in Carson City. We still have not heard any answers to those questions. You can bet that when we do hear the answers, if ever, they won't explain why our health care services continue to decline despite the fact that the state has a \$40 million General Fund surplus.

I have a few more questions for the Welfare Board and especially for the doctors who "serve" welfare patients and poor people.

First, why is the rate of hysterectomies for Nevada women 8 times higher than the national average? Is it the climate? Or is it the greed of our medical practitioners combined with a lack of state controls?

Second, why is it that the rate of hysterectomies performed on Black women in Nevada is 5 times higher than the rate for white women? Is this a subtle form of Genocide?

Third, were the consequences of these operations or the possible alternatives explained to each of the women involved?

These questions demand answers. Few people have the courage to challenge the medical-political establishment, but Rev. Albert Dunn is such a person. Rev. Dunn is concerned about the sorry state of health care in our community - and he has proven that he has the courage to confront the establishment. He has not backed down in his successful challenges to government officials and business interests regarding economic development for West Las Vegas. Together, Rev. Dunn and I have exposed discriminatory practices in Las Vegas hotels. We have also organized a minority employees association to fight employment discrimination throughout Clark County and gain good jobs for Blacks and other minorities.

Rev. Dunn has been a thorn in the side of the powerful for many years. If we want answers to the above questions on neo-genocide or, more importantly, if we want something done to change the situation, I believe we need a fearless leader like Rev. Albert Dunn representing our community at the Nevada State Legislature.

Food Coupons - Country Concludes "They're Part of Cash & Carry"

More than 70% of all households in America are taking part in the snip-and-clip food coupon rage and the number is growing because of the sudden awareness of their worth by Black communities. They are joining the parade to lower prices because of convincing arguments that the coupons are a hedge against inflationary food basket prices, a survey by the General Foods Corporation shows.

While a record number of shoppers throughout the land have been tearing out food coupons in newspapers, magazines and their mail for several years, members of Black households, smarting under the lash of discrimination have held back for three reasons:

(1) They didn't believe they could save money; (2) they were embarrassed in the mistaken notion they would be made to appear like second class citizens by presenting coupons at stores, and (3) coupons seemed to them as a form of dole. But all this is changing - and at a rapid pace in cities and towns with predominant Black populations. Blacks are hopping on the coupon bandwagon with a vengeance, finally convinced they are valid inducements.

The study shows that almost half the households among the nation's 25,000,000 Blacks were attracted in the past year to food chain store advertisements being placed in growing numbers in Black-published newspapers whose circulation totals more than 6 million.

Last year General Foods and other food processors and merchandisers spent an estimated

**V*A FACTS

.....
EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.
.....

Q - May a veteran receive service-connected disability compensation while incarcerated in a county penal institution?

A - Yes, unless he is rated by the VA as being incompetent by reason of mental illness. If rated incompetent and his estate from any source equals or exceeds \$1,500, further payments of compensation shall not be made until the estate is reduced to \$500.

Q - Is a GI home loan a gift?

A - No. The loan must be repaid. If the government pays the guaranty on the loan to the lender, the veteran or ser-

viceman usually becomes obligated to repay this sum to the government.

Q - I was in a VA hospital for three months; my last check was for \$50 instead of \$173. I am single. The VA pension is my only source of income. Why was my check reduced?

A - The pension of a hospitalized veteran without a spouse or child is reduced to an amount not in excess of \$50 a month after two full calendar months of care. Full pension is resumed following release from the hospital or VA maintenance, but the money reduced from the pension is not refunded.

Wanted: 1,500 Persons, All Freedom Fighters

The NAACP, under court order, is required to post \$1,563,373 in a cash bond for what a Judge called 'damages' suffered by Port Gibson, Mississippi merchants. The monies must be raised by Sept. 26. The NAACP is rich in valor and poor at the cash register. For, while it has supported hundreds of causes to bring dignity to the Black Community, it has spent every cent so that Black heads can hang high and not on a lynching post.

Between April, 1966 and February 1967, the NAACP waged a campaign in Port Gibson to help the local community folk get jobs long denied them by merchants in this Mississippi town. NAACP also took on the local white citizenry in the hope of achieving voting rights for Blacks, and put an end to a solid white ballot box there as elsewhere. The least of the demands was a request for a courtesy long termed as proper in Emily Post but never practiced in Mississippi. Black people like white folks, in the pursuit of their everyday business, should be called "Mr. and Mrs." The NAACP won the battle of the boycott but lost the war of the stores. The case was tried not before a jury, but before a single judge in Hinds County nearby, where such kangaroo courts are permitted. The judge ruled that the merchants lost business as a result of the boycott. And hear this: The legislature had amended the laws during the prolonged litigation. It made boycotts illegal. It made it possible for merchants to sue for the alleged 'damages,' after the fact. It ruled it a retroactive law. The trial began in 1969 and the ruling was handed down Aug. 10, 1976. 'Damages' totaled \$1,250,699 but the court requires 125% of the judgement. So that's why the NAACP seeks \$1,563,373. It is appealing but NAACP must be kept in the trenches to fight wanton types of discrimination.

Accordingly, NAACP is waging a campaign to find 1,500 contributors to send \$1,000 each and thus help stay the hand of southern injustice. Surely there are 1,500 Blacks who can enlist in this cause. Surely the fight is not out of us. Let the Mississippi Matadors get the message.

\$500 million to print, advertise or distribute 50 billion coupons of more than 5 billion were redeemed, according to Hugh Cavanaugh, GF's Coupon Services Manager. He noted that coupons offer shoppers an immediate reward - "A bargain, cash in hand." He attributed the rise in newspaper advertising on higher postage costs for direct mailing distribution. Cavanaugh said of GF's coupon campaign: "You can save money and get some of the finest products in the world by using us."

Happiness Through Health

by
Otto McClarrin

Wood Tick Fever Increasing Threat

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a deadly disease usually transmitted to humans by the bite of a wood tick, is becoming an increasing threat to the Eastern Seaboard residents who are spending more time in the wooded countryside where the ticks live.

Despite its name, Rocky Mountain spotted fever is now most common in the south-eastern states, to which it had spread from the west years ago. Its incidence has been increasing rapidly in recent years with 1975 the worst year to date and North Carolina the hardest hit state.

For a still relatively uncommon disease, it also has become seriously more prevalent in the state of Virginia where 111 cases were reported last year and 47 so far this year. Maryland reported 30 cases in 1975 and 17 so far this year.

Dr. Grayson Miller, Virginia Health Department epidemiologist, in discussing the matter, stated, "Rocky Mountain spotted fever isn't one of our really common illnesses. There's no reason for people to panic every time they see a tick. They should just know that there are ticks, and some of them" - he thought maybe five percent, some authorities say only two percent - "carry the disease."

And they can transmit it, if the human invader of the tick's turf is not careful. Careful means making a tick check at least twice a day for everyone living or passing through infested areas. This requires examination of every part of the body, but especially hairy areas and warm crevices and tight spots like those under belts and straps.

Some Symptoms Of The Fever

Often a victim's first symptoms may be a headache several days following exposure to the bite of the wood tick. This is often followed by a fever. This, of course, can sometimes be mistaken for a virus. Some victims next have a rash. A rash at first on hands and feet, usually, then arms and legs, then the whole body, is a common symptom of tick fever, along with chills, fever, and aches and fatigue.

The overall death rate in the disease is only five to 10 percent today, down from 30 to 40 percent in the pre-antibiotic era. But the death rate is higher in older persons.

Finding & Removing Ticks

A wood tick is a round, eight-legged creature not quite the size of the blunt end of a pencil. Dogs carry them. So do mice and other small animals. Ticks wait in the grass for warm-blooded animals, including humans, then hitchhike and burrow into the skin of what they consider a meal - your blood.

Insect repellent sometimes help keep them off. But often not. Often you can easily feel one crawling on you. If you find one in the "tick checks" that are a must at least twice a day in tick country, you can sometimes just flick it off if it is just settling down.

If it is embedded - according to most doctors and outdoors people - gently try to remove it with fingernails or tweezers, grasping it just behind the head so the head won't remain within you. Alcohol, lighter fluid, fingernail polish or kerosene will often loosen a tick. Or hold a cigarette or match head near it, and it will often let go.

If a tick is engorged with blood, be especially careful not to squeeze and dismember it. If it won't come out readily, go to a doctor or hospital. After the tick is out bathe the bitten area with alcohol or some other antiseptic. Wash your hands well after handling one.