

**"Call It
Black Male"**

by ROOSEVELT FITZGERALD



THE TSETSE PHENOMENA

'Fly in the buttermilk. Shoo fly shoo.' I think that most will agree that during the colder months there are fewer flies. I don't know if they freeze to death or they just hide away from the draft. Whatever the reason, I am never awakened in the mornings by the constant buzzings, flitterings, bittings and landings of what seems like a thousand and one flies. Summertime is a different story altogether. Seems like they're everywhere. Can't sit down to eat without their pulling up a chair right in the middle of your plate. You can't punch them out because if there's one thing worse than a fly in your soup it is a smashed fly. You just flick them away and, with the cost of food being what it is today, eat around their parking places. Mark Twain describes the situation best in his letters From the Earth when he said: 'and then there were the flies. They swarmed everywhere and persecuted the Family all day long. They were the first animals up in the morning, and the last ones down at night....' They are to be found everywhere, and there are numerous different kinds. We cannot say that when we've ... seen one we've seen them all. There are flies for every occasion. Among them can be found such as the robber, tachina, wheat stem, hessian, srphid, louse and the tsetse. They range in size from 1/8 inch to 1 inch. They usually are the carriers of diseases.

In equatorial Africa's rain forest, and insalubrious region where lush flora is to be found we also find the tsetse fly. This is probably the fly with the worse reputation in the entire world. Most texts describe the fly as being the cause of African sleeping sickness. Not so. It is only a vector or carrier. The cause of sleeping sickness is a parasitic protozoa called Trypanosomes. There are three species of this which affect humans and two are to be found in Africa: 1) the gambiense and 2) the rhodesiense. Unlike with the mosquito, which transmits malaria exclusively by the female of the species, both male and female of the tsetse fly transmit sleeping sickness.

The area of Africa where the tsetse fly is to be found is approximately four and a half million square miles. They do not lay eggs. Their larvae develops one at a time inside the body of the female fly and are nourished, strange as it might seem, by milk glands. Each female produces only from 12-14 offspring in a lifetime. They are most active during the daylight hours and feed, mostly, either early in the morning or late in the evening. They are very selective about their food and will only feed off certain animals. This is why some animals are unaffected while others are not. Some live away from humans, some feed only on wild game and some feed only on people. It is said that where ever there is to be found the tsetse fly you will not find domesticated hoofed animals such as cattle, horses, camels and the like. For the most part the fly requires shaded, wooded damp areas. This is not always exclusively the case. Some are to be found in grasslands well away from heavily wooded areas.

People who live in regions infested by the fly must take precautions in order to safeguard themselves from its possibly fatal bite. Places of habitat should be built away from bodies of water. Fly screens should be used when sleeping and light colored clothing, preferably white, should be worn since the fly is repelled by the brightness of the reflected light (sunlight can kill the larvae and even after maturation the fly generally shuns brightness).

DDT is used extensively but the most effective means of controlling the fly is by the clearing away of the vegetation on which flies depend for shade and humidity.

What is sleeping sickness? It is typically a disease of the lymphatic and nervous systems. At the site of the bite of the tsetse an elevated, hardened and painful nodule appears and enlargement of the lymphatic glands in the neck and the groin occurs. There is fever accompanied by an enlargement of the liver and spleen. There is a chronic inflammation of the lymphatic system which spreads brain and spinal cord. Until the fever begins the infection goes on secretly. The early signs of the disease are: headaches, cramps, neuralgia, shortness of breath and weakness in the legs. The next stage involves mental apathy, muscle spasms, incoordination, pain and stiffness in the neck and sleepiness. The

victim becomes so weakened that eventually there is not the strength to wake up...Death is the final stage.

**BLACK EVENTS
QUIZ**

(This quiz is designed to accompany History-Making Black Happenings. It can be used for classroom discussion or to help you focus your own thinking on current issues.)

1. What impact do you feel that the pleas of South African banned journalist Donald Woods will have upon the Western World (or West European and North American) nations? Do you believe that Woods' pleas will strengthen the hands of Cuba and the Soviet Union in Africa?
2. The Stephen Biko case has been highlighted as one of the world's major atrocity stories of recent times. Do you feel, in the light of this apparent world feeling, that the Biko family may look for a just or favorable hearing in the South African Courts? Why?
3. Do you feel that quieting the apparently undisciplined "guerrilla" troops among blacks in Zimbabwe (or Rhodesia) will be possible without civil war, once majority rule takes place there? What problems do you foresee?
4. The Joan Little Case,

the Case of the Wilmington 10 and the fact that North Carolina has an unenviably high number of persons on death row all have focused world concern on the inequities (or the fact of unevenness) in the administration of U.S. law. What do you feel should be done about this generally? What about each of the circumstances named?

5. Do you feel that the addition of racial or ethnic minorities and a woman to the space shuttle training program of NASA is good, bad or indifferent? In any case, why?

6. What should black Americans generally be doing about the "unclosing gap" in black dollar income and employment in relation to the "American mainstream"? Have we yelled or complained long enough? What can or should be a "next stage" strategy for blacks to enter the "mainstream" economically?

7. Should blacks support some type of Hubert Humphrey memorial? What do you look for from the Senate in terms of a replacement of his advocacy for the poor and minorities.

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HUGHES REPORT

"On the minority side." Rougeau told me, "in two weeks we will for the first time issue proposed nationwide goals. These will be established according to Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and economic areas, too."

Rougeau, once a Southern black activist, speaks of "goals." But the Supreme Court ended that euphemism in the Weber decision. And the debarment of Uniroyal, one of the Fortune 500,



from federal contracts proved how tough Rougeau and the Labor Department can get.

There's such evidence, too, in the "conciliation" agreement just signed between OFCCP and Merck & Co., a major pharmaceutical contractor. This drug firm, which services the Veterans Administration, last week agreed to spend \$3.2 million to upgrade employment for the firm's 4,900 minority and female employees.

Rougeau apparently isn't taking any chances on getting his point across.

Some \$500,000 will go for the re-education — or what OFCCP calls EEO Awareness Instruction — of the company's supervisors, managers and local union officials. This is a first.

So the vast banking business certainly knows what's coming. Rougeau has developed a complex affirmative action draft for the financial world. Nationwide implementation is coming swiftly.

"The U.S. Treasury Department, which for years had compliance authority over banking, did very little," Rougeau said the other day. "We have developed some guidelines on this banking industry. Soon we'll come out formally. We are definitely going after many of these banks. On Aug. 6, we're going to try to debar the Harris Trust Company in Chicago on sex discrimination charges. We mean it."

I've talked with Rougeau often. I know his voice tones. He means it, all right.

He does talk kindly of the \$215 billion construction industry.

"I'm impressed by them on goals for women," he said during our recent conversation. "The industry is setting up an information network for the hiring of female workers. Anyway, we are doing an increasing number of reviews and issuing show-cause notices."

His "goals" for female hard-hats are mighty specific. A set percent for each of the three years beginning May 8, 1978. No one really knows how many women construction workers Rougeau wants. But he does want more than the ori-

ginally forecast 300,000 to 400,000. Actually, this would run close to 10 percent of the employed union construction workers.

Before the Weber decision, Rougeau and his Labor Department colleagues weren't exactly idling like cars at a filling station. But the Supreme Court has provided the OFCCP authority to demand that anyone doing more than \$50,000 worth of business with the government have an affirmative action program for black, Hispanic and female hiring, promotion and full utilization on file for instant inspection.

Otherwise, the OFCCP can call a quick hearing before an administrative law judge — such as the one who recommended Uniroyal's debarment — and then can come loss of federal contracts.

For Rougeau, there aren't sacred cows. Some months ago, he told me he was "looking into" one of the three national broadcasting networks. But his attorneys advised him he didn't have jurisdiction and it all might break out as a violation of the broadcasters' First Amendment rights.

However, Rougeau hasn't abandoned the idea. He still is riding hard as he did in the '60s during the many demonstrations. He does believe that whether it's Hollywood or the coal pits or the bank tellers' windows or the radio and television arenas, there must be swift upgrading of blacks, minorities and women. And the responsibility rests on labor chiefs as well as chief executive officers.

Rougeau has many fish to fry. And fry them he will.