

District Judge Rules For Plaintiff In Suit

District Judge Warren A. Woodruff found for the plaintiff Kency Credit Service, Inc., of Roseburg Tuesday in a civil action to collect more than \$115 in physician and medical expenses.

The local collection agency claimed David Aucklund owed outstanding bills to a Washington doctor and a hospital there incurred by his former wife.

Aucklund gave oral notice he would appeal the judgment.

Vital Statistics

Marriage Licenses

Martin A. Baker and Hazel Mae Pendergrass, both Roseburg.

Donald George Lewis and Doris Jean Harbaugh, both Roseburg.

Archie W. Oliver and Hazel Ruth Arvidson Wright, both Roseburg.

John Howard Patrick, Anchorage, Alaska, and Anna K. John, Roseburg.

Organized Medicine Pitted Against Organized Labor In Rising Cost Of Health

By NORMAN WALKER

WASHINGTON — A battle pitting organized labor against organized medicine is brewing over rising health costs and how workers pay for them.

The labor side of it will get an airing here next week. The American Labor Health Assn. has assembled a big discussion group of doctors and administrators of labor and community health plans, along with the union and public officials and legal experts for a two-day conference.

There is bound to be reaction from the American Medical Assn., which holds its annual convention the following week in San Francisco.

Issue At Stake

The issue is whether an organization established to buy medical care on a mass basis should have any say in doctors or fees or quality of services.

The labor group says any mass purchaser of medical services must have a voice in these matters, or go broke.

The AMA opposes any third-party interference between doctor and patient, and says the medical profession can police any overcharging or questionable medical practice.

But Dr. Warren Draper, executive medical director of the United Mine Workers welfare and retirement fund, says his experience during a decade of buying medical services has been to the contrary. The UMW fund spends 60 million dollars a year for medical and hospital services.

Says Dr. Draper, himself a pil-

lar of the AMA for years: "Organized medicine, while insisting that it alone possesses the authority to judge and discipline its members, has thus far been unable or unwilling to establish and enforce effective means of doing so."

Cites Overcharging

Draper recites a long list of cases involving what he calls overcharging for care and unnecessary surgery. To this, the AMA says it always acts where there is sufficient evidence.

But Draper since last Oct. 1 allows the UMW fund to pay out medical bills only for services performed by UMW - approved doctors. This has aroused the AMA's ire. It charges interference with the patient's choice of a physician.

The labor group say they want to pay a fair price for quality service, but don't want to be overcharged or required to pay physicians they consider incapable.

The unions participating in the labor health conference here next Monday and Tuesday estimate they already pay out over \$1 million dollars a year in furnishing health protection for four million workers or members of their families.

They envision the time that workers everywhere will be pooling resources in efforts to buy medical care cheaper and of better quality. The AMA seems to prefer that such groups merely provide insurance protection against costs, but that workers pay their bills directly to doctors.

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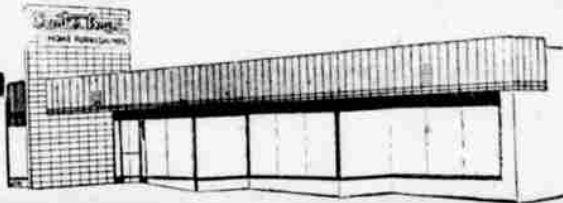


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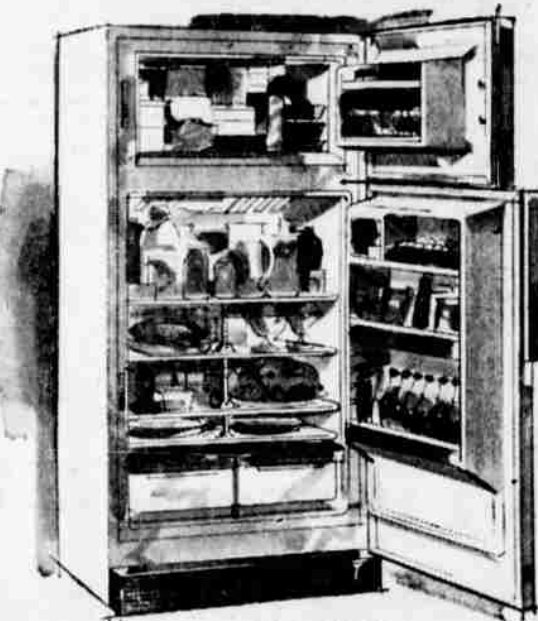
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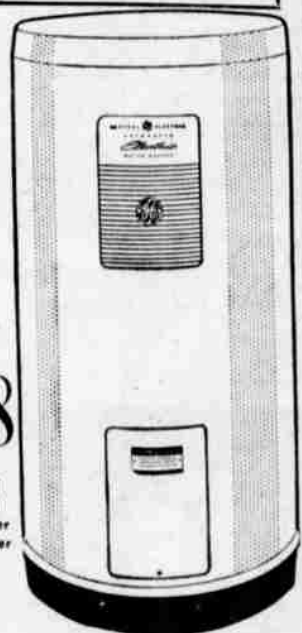
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