

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

3 A.M. THE PATIENT TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE. SO NURSE PENICILLA FRANTICALLY SUMMONS HIS MEDICO....

3:45 A.M. DOC RUSHES OVER AND THE CASE IS SITTING UP FEELING FINE.... (RS. NURSE FEELS LIKE SHE SHOULD RESIGN)



The Medical Roundup

by

Walter Alvarez

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(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

Is There a Cure For Bright's Disease?

Hundreds of people write to ask if there is a cure for Bright's disease of the kidneys and I have to say that today we physicians do not use that name — it is used, I think, almost entirely by laymen who include under that term all of the many forms of kidney disease.

There are, I fear, many doctors who, when the laboratory girl reports some albumin in a person's urine, make a diagnosis of kidney disease. Oftentimes, if the doctor were to examine the urine the next morning, before the patient gets up out of bed, he would find no albumin. Later, if he made another examination after the man had walked to work, he would find it.

Then he could know that the man had a "postural" albuminuria, not worth worrying about. In other cases he might find with the "blood creatinine" and "blood urea" and "non-protein nitrogen" tests that the man's kidneys were doing an adequate job. He might note that the man, who had come in perhaps for an insurance examination, was never ill, and yet he had a little albumin in his urine.

A thousand times in these cases it would never occur to me to worry the man about his little "albuminuria." I would have much preferred not to say anything about it, but always I have had to face the possibility that in a few weeks or months he would have his urine checked again, and this time an alarmist might scare him badly. I like to protect such

a man from being frightened later by a pessimist.

Left by Early Illness

Oftentimes in these cases I get a history of scarlet fever or an acute kidney disease in childhood, and I wonder if that is what I saw in my patient of 45 was the leakage of a little albumin through the old scar left in the kidney by that early illness. In many cases, the person who has a tendency to high blood pressure will leak a little albumin from the blood into the urine. The point I want to insist on is that the wise physician, when told that his apparently healthy patient has albumin in his urine, does not get excited, and does not immediately diagnose "Bright's disease." He will do some thinking and some more observing.

I imagine that a hundred times during my Mayo Clinic days I have saved an essentially healthy man from being branded as having serious kidney disease by finding that his "albuminuria" was transient and due to fatigue. I did not want enough young physicians to think to do I ordered two repeat tests of the man's urine, and they were perfectly normal. The one sample of urine that had contained albumin had been passed early in the morning after the man's arrival at the clinic.

When I asked, "Were you very tired that morning?" the man said, "Doctor, I seldom have been so all-in. In order to be here early that morning, as you told me to be, the day before I drove some 300 miles. Then, that night, I was so tense I could not sleep." There, evidently, was the reason for the man's having albumin in his first sample of urine.

A point that many persons should know is that there are several functioning parts to the kidneys and all of them at times can suffer disease. Also, there are acute and chronic, mild and severe and recurrent forms of the disease. There is a glomerulonephritis in which the glomerulus (little tuft of tiny arteries out of which comes the urine) is principally affected. If a man has a poorly controlled diabetes and gets his glomeruli diseased in a certain way, he can have what is called Kimmelstiel-Wilson's Disease—perhaps with spells of what looks like nephrosis in disease with much albumin in the urine.)

Rare Kidney Disease

A child whose tissues tend to swell up all over with water may have this rare kidney disease called nephrosis. Many a person's kidneys can fail late in life because of disease in his arteries, and especially in the artery that supplies a kidney. Or his heart may be failing, or his blood pressure may be climbing too high.

Or the man can have an infection of the tubules in his kidneys, or a serious infection in the pelvis of a kidney—the pelvis is the central cavity into which the urine drains before it goes down to the bladder. Sometimes there are a few small stones in this "pelvis"—stones the presence of which makes it hard for the patient to get permanently rid of an infection.

I could go on and on, but I hope this is enough to show that albumin in the urine can mean any one of several conditions—some harmless and some bad. The patient will be fortunate if he finds a wise clinician who will check to see if he is really ill and needs to worry. Sometimes the doctor will send the patient to a urologist who will get a "urogram" on x-ray



Coming
JULY 22nd
ISSUE

Family
Weekly

* "How Much Is a Housewife Worth?" by Edward B. Rood.

* "Mr. Facts Takes Washington" by Curtis Mitchell.

* "Hollywood's New Young Male Stars" by Peer J. Oppenheimer.

* "Meet Miss Somebody from Mississippi" by Ozzie Sweet.

NEXT WEEKEND IN

MEDFORD
MAIL TRIBUNE

Quotas on Imports of Canadian Lumber Getting Cool Response From White House, Reports Say

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special)—The Kennedy Administration reportedly has rejected the idea of slapping a quota on lumber imports from Canada which have created distress in the North West lumber industry.

The White House isn't even considering a quota, an informed source reported. The administration's policy of expanding foreign trade with reduced tariff barriers, plus concern for the precarious state of the Canadian financial situation, are apparent reasons for the anti-quota attitude.

Thus far the administration has been silent on what to do about this cause of economic distress to a major domestic industry, except for the promises of Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman to see that the Forest Service improves its effectiveness in marketing timber. He noted a few days ago that more national forest timber was sold between April 1 and June 30 than in any quarter in history.

"The increase in sales during the last three months is largely the result of great effort on the part of the Forest Service to help national forest timber purchasers and counteract the depressed conditions of the industry," Freeman said.

Allowable Cuts Reviewed
But he acknowledged that the Northwest mills "need more timber than is available for sale." He said allowable cuts are being reviewed and "the maximum justifiable timber volume will be offered for sale on these national forests where timber supply-demand relationships are critical."

Beyond congressional demands for changes in Forest Service timber management, most Northwest members of Congress have joined in supporting the idea of an import quota that would limit Canadian producers to a small portion of the American market. The National Lumber Manufacturers association, which first advanced this idea before the House Ways and Means committee, suggested 10 per cent. Canada last year

obtained about 14 per cent of the market.

The administration last month created a so-called task force to study the problem. Last week it presented members of Congress with a tentative report which Northwest lawmakers felt was so inadequate that they rejected it.

Last week Northwest Democratic senators met in the offices of Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) to discuss future strategy in dealing with the whole matter. One thing discussed was the possibility of meeting with President Kennedy in the near future to enlist his support for more direct action. But the administration's chilly attitude toward an import quota has given some senators apprehension about the political risk of marching down to the White House and coming back empty handed.

Testimony Scheduled

Meanwhile, Magnuson's committee, which held field hearings in Olympia, Portland and Lewiston, as well as three days of hearings here last month, has scheduled further testimony on maritime shipping bills affecting lumber. In the earlier hearings this issue was all but brushed aside by Magnuson, who has wanted to avoid arousing maritime interests over the proposals to repeal or change the Jones act—the 1920 statute which still requires domestic green lumber to be shipped in American ships, thereby placing U. S. mills at a disadvantage with Canadian mills which use cheaper foreign ships.

Sen. Maurice Neuberger (D-Ore.), sponsor of the bill to open the inter-coastal trade to foreign ships, is suddenly more optimistic about getting some action. The Washington Post, the capital's largest newspaper, last week editorially advocated repealing the Jones act to help the softwood lumber industry.

Also before the Magnuson committee is his own bill to offer a subsidy to U. S. merchant ship operators who carry lumber at reduced prices competitive with those available to Canadian mills which use foreign ships.

View Not Known

The resistance of the administration to import quotas apparently has forced Magnuson to attempt to gain approval of this subsidy bill. The administration's view of this measure is not known. But if it reaches the Senate floor, Mrs. Neuberger will likely try to attach her own bill as an amendment.

In any event, after six months of congressional hearings, conferences with government officials and closed door strategy talks, no one in Washington seems to have discovered a painless way to help the Northwest lumber industry. But the fast approaching congressional elections will stimulate the lawmakers to greater efforts, and possibly even painful ways, to help their region's No. 1 industrial payroll.

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McNamara Reveals Dollar Drain Cut

Washington (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has announced a long-range plan to cut almost in half the drain on U.S. dollars caused by servicemen and their dependents overseas.

McNamara said at a news conference Monday that the \$900 million cut would be achieved by trimming mili-

tary purchases abroad, largely in Europe, and by stimulating foreign purchases here.

Study projects have been launched, he said, aimed at reducing U.S. support troops in Europe, eliminating some military headquarters overseas, cutting the U.S. share of payments for NATO joint facilities and expanding Ameri-

can credit sales abroad. Other possibilities being studied, McNamara said, include rotating small Army units abroad for short tours without their families, expanding purchase of U.S. goods in post exchanges overseas, reducing the number of foreign nations on the payroll and cutting construction outlays 66 per cent by such means as shipping prefabricated housing units overseas.

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