

The Medical Roundup

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Ovarian Hormone

During the many years in which I have been giving ovarian hormones to hundreds of menopausal women to relieve them of their flushes, sweats, and nervous storms, I have often had trouble because a brother physician immediately insisted that the woman stop taking the medicine—because he feared it would quickly give her a cancer.

So far as I could ever find out, these men based their opinion largely on a paper published 30 or 40 years ago—a paper describing some results of giving huge doses of ovarian hormone to mice—throughout most of their lifetime.

Actually, through all these years, I have never seen a case in which I thought the giving of ovarian hormone to a woman, for a few months or years, had produced cancer. Also, in recent years a number of eminent professors of gynecology have said that, so far as they knew, the giving of the hormone in small doses and for a matter of months or a year or two is safe.

Curiously, many physicians lately have been giving large doses of ovarian hormone to women in the hope of curing them of cancer, or preventing the return of a cancer that had been removed—

menopausal woman that estrogen makes cancer, and then we give it to cure cancer!

Dr. Wilson based his statement on a study of a group of 304 women ranging in age from 40 to 70 years who were treated with estrogens for periods of time ranging up to 27 years with an average of 7.8 years. He pointed out that according to the law of chances, during that time at least 18 of the 304 women should have developed a cancer in a breast or the womb without the taking of any medicine, but not a single cancer appeared.

Another argument that Dr. Wilson uses is that when the famous Dr. Huggins produced cancer of the breast in 350 female rats and then fed them daily doses of estradiol plus progesterone (two female hormones), cancer was cured in every case, and did not recur.

Yet another good argument is that if estrogen is a common cause of cancer in women, why do some of them get a cancer after the menopause when their natural supply of estrogen is greatly reduced by the atrophy of the ovaries? Most of the literature on this subject can be found by physicians in an article (published in December, 1962) by an emeritus professor of gynecology and obstetrics at Stanford University—Dr. L. A. Emge. As he said, in the early work done on this subject, doses of estrogens were given "in excess of imaginable biologic limits." In other words, what happened to a tiny mouse given huge doses could not be expected to happen to a big woman given tiny doses.

Much work on this subject by the great Dr. Leo Loeb showed that whether or not cancer developed in a breast depended largely on an inherited tendency to the growth of cancer.

Loeb showed that a "weak" estrogen would not make cancer in a mouse except in the presence of a strong inherited susceptibility. Other research work on small animals indicated that estrogen (female hormone) is not a primary cancer-making drug.

Dr. Emge and his associates and others for years tried to produce cancers by giving large doses of female hormone to rats, and nearly always they failed. What is very im-



PHOTO FROM TIROS - Above is one of the first photographs made from the Tiros VII satellite launched early Wednesday from Cape Canaveral. The picture shows the Hudson Bay region as seen from space. The bottom of the picture is north. (UPI)

Capitol Memo

Hearing on Milk Price Law Could Erupt into Battle

By ZAN STARK

Salem—UPI—The hearing here Monday on Oregon's new milk price law is expected to erupt into a battle between dairy farmers and milk distributors. Monday's will be the first of four hearings next week to implement the milk stabilization act adopted by the 1963 legislature. The law will set minimum prices to farmers.

Farmers naturally will battle for high prices, while distributors seek lower prices. The hearing will be at 10 a. m. in the Capitol.

Other hearings will be held Tuesday in the Lane county courthouse at Eugene, Wednesday at the Curry county courthouse at Gold Beach, and Friday at the Baker community center.

Market areas and minimum prices will be the topics of the Eugene, Gold Beach and Baker meetings. The Salem hearing also will include testimony on fees farmers will pay to finance the new milk

price control law. Under the new measure, all milk handlers must secure permits by July 4. Marketing areas and prices for class 1 and 2 milk must be established by Aug. 3. Market pools must be in operation on or before Oct. 2.

K. W. Sawyer, chief of the milk audit and stabilization division of the Department of Agriculture, said the department will set the new minimum prices after evidence received at the hearings is reviewed.

A six-point formula will be used:—The average price of manufactured milk in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

—Prices of class 1 and 2 milk in adjoining states.

—The cost of transporting milk.

—The prevailing price for manufacturing grade A milk used in products which compete with products made from grade A milk.

—The available supply of milk in relation to consumption, and;

—The cost of producing

grade A milk, including leveling of seasonal production to meet market requirements.

Taken to Court If either distributors or farmers object to the prices set by the department, the issue can be taken to the courts, Sawyer said.

Under the temporary price stabilization act which expired in January the minimum price was \$5.86 per hundred pounds. Prices in many areas dropped 36 cents to \$5.50 per hundred pounds on June 1.

Sawyer said he had not yet received much comment on the new law from producers or wholesalers.

"I expect I'll hear a lot of comment starting Monday," he added.

All grade A milk producers selling milk in Oregon are covered under the law and handlers are prohibited from purchasing milk that has not been produced under a quota. This means that out-of-state producers providing grade A milk to Oregon milk handlers will have to be assigned a quota.

Moore Is Elected To AOI Position

Portland—J. A. Moore, who recently moved from Medford to Portland, was elected vice president of Associated Oregon Industries recently at the annual meeting of the statewide employer's association in Portland.

Moore was a director of the Medford Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Cancer Society, Oregon Shakespearean Festival and the United Medford Crusade. He also was director and treasurer of the Jackson county Red Cross chapter.

Moore is now vice president of First National Bank of Oregon at Portland.

AOI also elected Robert R. Carey, president of Inland Machinery company, La Grande, to serve as president. Other officers for the 1963-64 year include Don A. Ellis, Tektronix, Inc., Beaverton, treasurer; and R. A. Kronenberg Weyerhaeuser company, Springfield, secretary.

Dr. Emge's statement that they always failed when using stilbestrol, which is the drug commonly used in the treatment of menopausal women. Dr. Emge quoted Dr. J. A. Larson who, after reviewing 305 publications on this subject, wrote "there is but meager evidence to implicate estrogen in the etiology (cause) of endometrial (in the womb) cancer."

Dr. Emge concluded that the long-continued use of ovarian hormone is a "possible hazard."

Dr. Alvarez has prepared a booklet about cancer which helps readers spot danger signals. You may obtain a copy of the booklet by sending 25 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for it to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.



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Ruling Supports Former Communist

Salem—UPI—The Oregon Supreme Court, by a 5-2 decision, ruled Wednesday that a former member of the Communist party could be admitted to the Oregon Bar.

The high court approved the application of Bernard Jolles of Portland for admission to the bar.

The State Board of Bar Examiners had recommended that his application be denied on the ground that he failed to establish that he was a person of good moral character because of having been a member of the Communist party from 1949 to 1957.

Litter Bugs Costly

To U. S. Taxpayers

New York—UPI—It costs the people of the United States more than \$500 million each year just clean up after litterbugs, according to a report of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. And this direct drain on the taxpayer is only part of the toll, says the KAB, pointing out that litter also is a threat to health, a devaluer of property, and a spoiler of the nation's scenic glories.

A national conference on litter prevention will be held late this month in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of KAB, a non-profit coordinating organization that works with more than 7,000 communities throughout the nation, and eight state organizations.

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