

Health Quackery Declared Billion Dollar Business

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Health quackery is at least a billion-dollar annual business that sometimes kills its victims, according to top-level government officials.

Opening the second annual National Congress on Medical Quackery, Welfare Secretary Anthony J. Celebrezze said the gullible buyer of useless and sometimes dangerous products for which extravagant claims are made "is not only fleeced of the price of a nostrum... but is also deprived of considerable benefits of modern medicine."

The meeting to emphasize the dangers of quackery was co-sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Medical Association.

Across town, one target of

the double-barrelled quackery attack — the National Health Federation (NHF)—set up shop for a convention of its own, called the "National Congress on Health Monopoly." It attacked the AMA, contending medical doctors themselves were guilty of promoting useless drugs.

Joins In Attack
FDA Commissioner George P. Larrick, joining Celebrezze in attacking quackery, directly referred to NHF. He derided its claims of promoting freedom of choice in the health field and said it was "one of a number of so-called health and nutrition organizations which

are not all that they claim to be."

Celebrezze said the tragic side of modern medical quackery is that it can be the difference between life and death. Larrick said there is no way of really knowing what quackery costs the public because many of the victims can't be made to realize they are being taken and don't report adverse effects—even deaths.

Information To Public
One of the best weapons against quackery, said Celebrezze, is dissemination of information to the public about quack products. "Health education is somewhat like a success-

ful vaccination," he said. "It provides increased immunity to misinformation and health quackery."

Besides the NHF, the AMA came under attack from a spokesman for chiropractors group. He charged that some surgeons perform unnecessary operations on patients in order to collect the high fees.

At the NHF meeting, Miles Robinson led the attack on the AMA.

"Never before in the history of the world has there been such quackery on such a whole-sale and respectable-appearing scale," Robinson said. "But what can you expect from the

AMA, since it gets about half its income from drug advertisements in its many journals."

Robinson, a former instructor at Vanderbilt Medical School and the University of Pennsylvania, accused the AMA of "star chamber actions" to force its members to conform and of dominating the health field with no public control.

Pill Fixes Everything
"Generally speaking," Robinson said, "the AMA and its friends want to sell the public on the preposterous idea that everything wrong with it can be fixed up with a pill."

Larrick said several officials of the federation have been

jailed or fined for selling worthless remedies.

Robinson countered that it was no worse for federation members to claim vitamins are good for many diseases than it is for a "few surgeons to perform unnecessary operations at huge fees, with no AMA interference."

In a review of progress made against quackery in the two years since the first congress, Larrick said the FDA had "unprecedented activity and success in our educational and law enforcement program in this area."

But quackery still is a major health problem, he said.

Lawyer Named To Demo Post

EUGENE (UPI)—Norman A. Stoll, a 56-year-old Portland attorney, was elected Democratic National Committeeman for Oregon here Sunday afternoon.

He succeeds C. Girard Davidson, who announced his resignation earlier.

Stoll, who has practiced law in Portland since 1954, was the only person nominated at a meeting of the State Democratic Central Committee.

The new committeeman said he had been given a "tough job...to interpret on the state level what's going on at the national level."

"We have to put Oregon in

the plus column in 1964 and further the responsible liberal leadership demonstrated by President Kennedy," Stoll said.

Stoll was alternate chairman of the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee from 1959 to 1962. He was an assistant attorney general for Oregon during the administration of Gov. Robert Holmes.

Twenty counties were represented at the meeting, one more than necessary.

The committee also passed resolutions opposing a sales tax for Oregon and opposing a cut in the salaries of members of the state's legislature.

The U. S. Coast Guard academy was founded in 1876.

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Withering Heat Wave Continues In Eastern Area

By United Press International

A long and bitter drought—worst of the century in some parts of the country—bit deeper into the east today, sucking streams dry and feeding brittle fields with fire.

Weeks of withering heat sent damage estimates soaring into the millions of dollars.

Schools closed in Ohio. Farmers filed for emergency loans. Springs dried up in Vermont, for the first time in 70 years.

From Kansas wheatfields to New England forests, the story was the same: No rain, Indian summer on the warpath.

Another spell of unseasonable heat seared the East Sunday. Boston, Mass.—85 degrees—an all-time record. Washington, D.C.—83 degrees—hottest ever for the date.

Other Records Set
And Baltimore, Columbus, Albany, Worcester, Roanoke, Allentown, New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Portland, Windsor Locks: All records.

Some rain fell. Louisville got .73 of an inch. A record dry spell of 23 days ended when .02 inch fell at Albany, N.Y. The New York City dry spell went to a record 24 rainless days.

The weather bureau said: "The few sprinkles of rain that fell from the Ozarks to the Appalachians did little to relieve the drought situation."

And foresters across the drought area said it would take 3 inches of rain and more to ease the threat of fires.

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