

Abortion: con

A large spray of orchids to the House delegates for rejecting by a large minority to change AMA's stand on therapeutic abortion to favor abortion on demand" (AMN, Dec. 15, 1969).

is to be fervently hoped they will be able to substantiate one of the most important precepts propounded by the World Health Organization in its Declaration of Geneva: "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception; even under threat I will not use medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity."

ROY J. HEFFERNAN, MD
Boston, Mass.

Population

In regards to the article "curbing the population boom," by G. Bruce Lemmon, (AMN, Jan. 12, 1970).

reference to the United States, he says "the present growth rate of 1½%" when he projects future estimates. If he uses the word "present" he must change the figure to 1% and the resulting figures would be quite a drastic change. Also, nowhere does he mention the fact that 20% of our yearly increase in population is due to immigration. If he considers this a major problem, how is it that he does not consider how quickly this could be changed and what a difference it could make if immigration were curtailed.

He makes no mention of the European countries that have for some years achieved a stable population.

He is aware that the fertility rate is 2.45 and dropping steadily the past years, and the break-even point is 2.11; that there are now 2,500,000 less children under the age of 5 in the U.S. than in 1950?

He is not trying to discourage the present trend toward small families, but I would like to see a more accurate set of figures, as I definitely feel the U.S. is approaching the 2.11 fertility rate figure, voluntarily, and that medicine is able to provide citizens with a reasonably safe preventive for pregnancy.

He would use his figure, and many times I've seen, I would be scared too.

N.D. KLINE, MD

Phoenix, Ariz.

Part of my job was to review the claims for sick benefits; and in so doing, I was

A solution to the shortage

□ Some unions have blamed the AMA for the current doctor shortage. It should be pointed out that certain labor practices have caused the doctor shortage. Actually, the entire union-industrial complex is responsible.

A prime example is the union contract which provides sick leave time that requires verification by a private physician. Visits to the doctor are required by the employment agreement for verification of disability. Thus, the patient comes to the doctor not for a treatment but for a note to take to his employer. For the millions of mild cases of upper respiratory infections, low back pain, and other relatively non-existent illnesses, the nation's already overworked physicians are forced to become accessories after the fact and to document disability time which is non-documented.

I propose, therefore, to alleviate the doctor shortage by holding an immediate moratorium on union-industrial agreements that include the private doctor as an unwilling third party. Sick leave time will be called vacation time—which it is, anyway.

Many people have suggested to me that we postpone the onset of this moratorium until the date of the next anti-war moratorium.

bombs, life insurance, etc. . . .
D.F. BUEHNER, MD
Evansville, Ind.

torium so that the millions of protesters around the country will look as if they belong to my moratorium. I have steadfastly resisted these radical pressures. Instead, I have rallied a sizable group of colleagues for another form of protest.

Secretly, we have been sending back irrelevant notes to employers of our industrial patients. My last such note was as follows: "This patient was seen by the undersigned in his office today and has been found to be suffering from acute dysentery complicated by complete intestinal obstruction. I have recommended two days sick leave in Miami, Florida." I never heard from anybody about the content of this note.

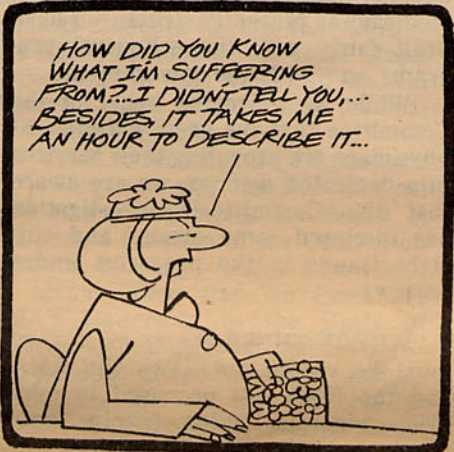
Obviously, no one has been reading either our relevant or our irrelevant notes to the bosses. One sociologist has been awarded me a trophy for developing the most non-violent form of protest of the past decade.

All of those who wish to join the National Mobilization Committee to End the Doctor Shortage are encouraged. Another moratorium will be announced each month until the union-industrial complex stops the shortage of doctors.

RICHARD R. GRAYSON, MD
St. Charles, Ill.

AMA News 2/16/1970

DOCTOR IS IN... drawn for american medical news by dave harbaugh



... to be used by children age level.
Reliable and truthful competent authorities are not benefits of fluoridation in decay. My requests for fact dismissed by the trite remark be good because so many "it." And why are they us they are captives of the cannot escape it, even tho are sensitive to fluorides another, and some even di

FORREST J. PIN

Honolulu

Additiv

□ While it appears that with pollution is quite ho one procedure that may di ries. A public health app fluoridation of water coul we would add some tran (such as chlorpromazine) to oil, or better still to coal, w less troubled breaths while to death. This could also b nique for reducing the incre of mental illness in large c

JAC

Great Lakes, Ill.

FMGs', tra

□ With regular frequen been the frequent target. sults from the vested inte ized medicine in this cour been the recipient of ridi noxious innuendos. Everyt mentioned in a U.S. medic is also mentioned the crit quality and inferiority of t

To avoid misunderstand time for the AMA to cha toward the FMG, especial finishes his training in this finished our postgraduate and you still insist that we is reflected towards you w ble for our training.

AUGUST L. CA

St. Louis, Mo.