

I Need a Doctor— Was Physician To Blame for Child's Death?

Press of Duties May Prevent
Him From Answering a Call

(This is the fifth in a series of articles on the Hoosier physician)

By ROBERT BLOEM

NOT LONG ago a small child died in her father's arms in the ante-room of an Indiana hospital.

Friends of her family bitterly told and retold the sad story behind what still appears to them to have been a cruel and needless death. They blame—the doctors.

The little girl became ill and a doctor was summoned. Later she became worse. Her symptoms were alarming and the parents attempted to recall the doctor. Friends' story is that he refused to come because he was in the midst of his office hours, attending a roomful of waiting patients.

The frantic parents then rushed the sick child to a hospital. They were too frightened to attempt to call other doctors. Even their untrained eyes and ears told them this was an emergency that would not wait.

At the hospital she was refused admission, the reports say, because she was not coming in as the patient of any doctor. It was shortly after this that the father stopped fighting for his baby's life. He had already lost.

DESPITE the fact that the medical profession can answer many complaints against it, and despite the fact that doctors have many valid complaints of their own, what is the answer to this true situation?

Does the blame lie with the doctor? If so, other doctors point out, it still cannot be laid at the door of all doctors.

Or was the hospital responsible? Some critics of hospital charges openly that even had the child been accompanied by a doctor, the hospital might have denied admission unless the doctor was on the staff. Even the sharpest critics feel, however, that it would be an impossible situation to permit persons to enter hospitals on their own recommendation.

Many actual and potential patients of doctors, admittedly watching with interest the development of the controversy over "socialized medicine," are frank to say they will not be satisfied with medical care until things like this cannot happen, not even occasionally.

GENERALLY, complaints against doctors fall into a few categories—fees are too high, not enough doctors, individual doctors too independent, office waiting times too long, inclination to curbstone diagnoses and treatment by telephone to avoid making house calls.

It is relatively simple to find someone who has a story of his own or has heard a story of a doctor's refusal to answer a house call, either at night or in the daytime. Fortunately, the consequences are rarely so extreme as in the case of the little girl who died.

Here is another story, also exceptional, but which illustrates the potentialities on the other side of the picture.

AGAIN, fairly recently and still in Indiana, a doctor was summoned by a young woman who said she was too ill to go to work or come to the doctor's office. This doctor answered the call, although the woman was a stranger to him.

He found her alone, but not as sick as she had professed. He complied with a request to telephone her employer and tell him she could not report for work that day, using a phone number supplied by her. After this, the woman made a surprising recovery from her erstwhile misery. She

Talks Break Off In Steel Dispute

Union Ready
To Go on Strike

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shooter of the government mediation service, was assigned to the U. S. Steel negotiations by Mediation Chief Cyrus S. Ching. He said he did not plan immediate intervention, but that he would keep "in contact with the negotiations."

"We're going to have to play by ear and make our plans as we go along," he said. "Time is short and we want to try to settle this thing before the strike deadline."

Government labor experts discounted speculation that the Ford Motor Co.'s pension agreement with the automobile workers might set a pattern for basic industry and thus help bring about a steel settlement.

The government experts said the Ford settlement had been indicated for days and has had no noticeable effect on the steel talks.

As U. S. Suggested

The Ford settlement was within the framework set up by the presidential fact-finding board that investigated the steel dispute and recommended that the CIO Steelworkers abandon demands for a pay boost but that the companies finance a pension and insurance program.

Had peace come to the steel mills, peace probably would have come to the coal mines, for John L. Lewis has intimated strongly that he wanted to wait for a steel agreement before signing a United Mine Workers contract with operators.

In Virginia, where Gov. William M. Tucker declared a state of emergency and threatened to use state employees to mine coal "to keep Virginia warm no matter what it costs."

There appeared to be no likelihood of the miners returning to the pits under state operation.

Miners Amused

William Minton, president of the UMW's District 28, first announced the Virginia miners would return to work, but later he said the men seemed only amused at Gov. Tucker's directive. The Ford contract will run for a record-breaking 2½ years after it goes into effect Oct. 1.

Under its terms, the company will pay 8½ cents per hour toward the pension plan which will cost the firm about \$20 million during the first 10 months of 1950. Under the contract, workers will receive from Ford that part of the \$100 monthly pension that he does not receive under Social Security.

In addition, the firm will continue its present health insurance plan and institute a \$280 per worker "package" medical and hospital plan.

Tipple Wrecked In Strike Blast

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sheriff's deputies used tear gas to disperse club-wielding strikers who attempted to storm buses and motor cars carrying non-strikers to work.

The strikers were stopped short when deputies and plant guards tossed the tear gas bombs.

A strong wind drove the gas among the strikers and they scattered into fields, pursued by deputies. At least 12 were taken into custody.

The cavalcade of workers proceeded slowly into the plant. No one was hurt.

At Jasper, Ala., meanwhile, a mutual "cease fire" order restored an uneasy peace today at a non-union mine where a two-hour gun battle raged yesterday, leaving one union member near death.

People's Hospital reported that Hershey Davis, 51, of the United Mine Workers Local, was in a "dying condition" today. A volley of shots broke his jaw and struck him in the chest and abdomen.

McMasters Fails to Recover Gambling Devices



Figuring prominently in the LVL Club case are, left to right, Jake Green, court investigator; Sheriff Kuykendall, Sheriff Cunningham and Sam Blum.

Appeal of LVL Receiver Denied

Court Won't Release
Gaming Equipment

An effort on the part of William McMasters, receiver for the LVL Club, to gain possession of gambling equipment confiscated at a recent raid on the club by Sheriff James F. Cunningham was rejected today in Criminal Court 2 by Special Judge Rufus Kuykendall.

In a previous ruling Judge Kuykendall held the sheriff was in error when he raided the club and seized the equipment. Basis for the judge's ruling was the fact that the search warrant read the LVL Club was located at 2929 Bluff Rd., when, in fact, Defense Attorney Sam Blum's arguments showed the club located at 2927 Bluff Rd.

The raid was held illegal.

'Evidence' Produced

Just before court convened this morning, a group of prisoners from Marion County jail brought the evidence into court, a dice table, a roulette layout and several chairs.

Mr. McMasters, through his counsel, Paul Rochford, contended that it was his property as receiver for the club.

In rejecting the receiver's petition, Judge Kuykendall held that since he had already ordered the equipment returned to Lovell Pratt, LVL Club manager, the receiver had no claim in his court. However, Mr. Pratt's victory was short lived. As he emerged from the club he was tagged by Sheriff Cunningham who read to him an order of judgment requiring paying of \$275.17 brought against Pratt by the General Finance Loan Co.

After the order was read Pratt

Deserter, Missing Nearly 3 Years, Held

A 26-year-old Army deserter, sought since Dec. 19, 1946, was under arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation today, according to Harvey G. Foster, special agent in charge of the Indianapolis FBI office.

Raymond J. Hatz was arrested yesterday in his home in the 700 block of N. Pershing Ave. He had been working for the last nine days for a local firm under the name of Ray Johnson. Mr. Foster said, since his arrival from South Dakota.

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Governor Meets State Chief Of UMW: 'No Comment'

(Continued From Page One)

reportedly "visited" 35 men who were still on the job. After the "visit," the 35 men joined the walkout.

"The state will protect people who want to work," the governor said. "Law and order will be preserved in Indiana."

Plans Another Parley

He added that another conference between state officials and UMW representatives will be held soon in an effort to work out an emergency coal stockpile for state and public institutions.

State Labor Commissioner Thomas R. Hutson, who would probably head any such emergency measure, sat in on the conference this morning.

Coal Picture Worsens
The governor's intervention came as the picture worsened in Indianapolis and over the state, both on a retail and industrial basis.

The cold snap and the fear of a prolonged coal strike sent many Indianapolis residents to their telephones to lay in a supply of fuel.

However, they found most dealers limiting orders to two tons per person. Many excluded all but regular customers.

Most dealers said their stockpiles would last only four to six weeks, even on the rationed basis. Industries were beginning to worry about fuel supplies, too. Most factories have only a four to six-weeks' fuel supply. Utilities reported enough coal to keep go-

ing about six weeks. Both the industrial and retail users are worse off than in previous strikes, spokesmen said. This summer was one of the worst in recent years for coal dealers, with only about half the normal volume of warm-weather buying. The cold snap brought orders from people who had not stocked up in the summer, plus a flurry of scarce buying because of the nation-wide strike.

A random check of coal companies produced these comments from Indianapolis dealers:

"Our telephone is ringing its head off. We've got about 100 back orders on file and we have the coal saved for these. But we're being driven crazy by the people who are afraid we're going to run out before we get to them and the new orders who don't understand that most of the coal we have in the yard is already ordered."

"All summer you couldn't knock a man down and take an order away from him," said another. "Now everyone wants coal at once. We're limiting what we've got two tons per customer, and when that's gone that's all."

One customer who had four tons of coal on order for a week got only a half-ton delivered today. His dealer said he was imposing the ration limit on all deliveries.

Several other callers found that some dealers who a few days ago were giving two tons, today were limiting customers to one ton.

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The OWEGO
Water-repellent Cotton Gabardine Coat—Alpaca pile lined—with quilted rayon sleeve lining—Double-breasted style with full belt—Notch shawl collar in Luskia Lamb—Cocoa Tan with Cocoa Collar—or Brown with Brown collar—Sizes 12 to 20 \$25

(THE OTTER for Junior boys 4 to 12—20.95)

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Ralph O. Bradford Jr., 19, 828 N. Francisco; Phyllis L. Hancock, 19, 528 N. Oakland; Leonard Lynch, 20, 1400 S. Grant; Mary W. Hamper, 20, 2025 Washington; Bruce Berkeley, 21, Schellburg, Pa.; Frances W. Brad, 21, 117 Vincennes; W. W. Asher, 21, 1023 N. Concord; Lois E. Sanders, 21, 1310 Saucy; William S. Malin, 21, Indianapolis; Dorothy E. Malin, 21, Anderson; Ralph Miller, 29, 1907 Pennsylvania; Rose Viano, 29, 1118 S. Meridian; Billy H. Stewart, 24, 21 E. Morris; Naomi Reichman, 24, 218 N. Alabama; Harold P. Brooks, 24, 9 E. Bradley; Esther E. Cunningham, 25, 1113 Washington; James Murrell, 26, 216 Douglas; Sue Smith, 26, 1221 N. V. Street; William H. Hunterford Jr., 23, Mantilla; Virgil West, 23, 115 Pecanah; Freeman F. Miller, 26, Brazil; Bonetta Cole, 21, 31 Broadway; Gene L. Robinson, 23, 1727 Broadway; Doris Leslie, 21, 1727 Broadway; George H. Chubbard, 26, 1805 S. Norfolk; Mary P. Rushton, 24, 2633 S. Tall; Robert E. Gruber, 21, 26 S. Oriental; Alice L. Daniel, 21, 2857 Brookside.

DIVORCE SUITS FILED

Betty vs. Arthur Gibson; Jane M. vs. Clifton A. Lyons; Chester E. vs. Dorothy Leady; Robert A. vs. Dorothy Hurt; Ray P. vs. Herbert C. Wyatt; Henryetta vs. Rhea Hopps; Helen vs. Robert P. Scott; Joel A. vs. Joy E. Kern; Mary M. vs. Joseph C. Hays; Robert vs. Robert C. Vitterback; Ruby E. vs. Henry R. Perstinger; Edna J. vs. David L. Collier; Ruby E. vs. Jerome A. Antila; Mabel vs. Roy E. Donahue.

BIRTHS

At Home—Robert, Aurelia Williams, 3009 E. Minnesota. J. At St. Francis—Michael, Marcella Newport; Raymond, Ines Benjamin; Harley, Ruby Cooper; Floyd, Ruth Hask. At General—Nathaniel, Laura Schaney. At Coleman—John, Mary Cool; Paul, Eltona Boyd; Herbert, Daniel Finch. At Methodist—Marvin, Martha Huffman; Adrena Clark; George, Julia Kretz; Thomas, Catherine Lafever; Harold, Myra Swift; Bernard, Dorothy Pollock. At St. Vincent's—Marvin, Mary Jane Ward; Abrah, Louis Finn; Richard, Palay Schneider; Richard, Frances Smoker; Alfred, Sadie Shikany.

DEATHS

James W. Bateman, 76, at 58 W. 58th, coronary occlusion. Walter Perry, 68, at 2016 N. Harding, coronary occlusion. Lorne Raymond Gardner, 62, at St. Vincent, arteriosclerosis. Charles E. Sturgeon, 71, at Veterans, carcinoma. Beatrice Ward, 46, at 215½ Geisendorff, sarcoma. Edward Butler, 81, at 1716 Brookside, arteriosclerosis. Edna Reed Davis, 56, at 1929 Koehne, cancer. Roscoe A. Burdall, 56, at Veterans, hypertension, cardiovascular renal. Howard L. Hampton, 55, at 2521 W. 16th, coronary occlusion. John Krause, 94, at 329 S. Hamilton, myocardial infarction. John Wilford Weeks, 77, at 30 Jenny Lane, arteriosclerosis.

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