

WASH POST 2/27/99

Lift the Federal Ban on Needle Exchange

An NIH Consensus Conference's recent scientific conclusion about the effectiveness of needle-exchange programs in reducing the spread of diseases such as AIDS referred to the "dangerous chasm" between this finding and public policy in the United States. The Post's Feb. 15 editorial "Needles and Classroom Candor," while stating that "government policies that reject these findings and ignore these preventive steps must be changed," did not mention that although Congress imposed the ban on use of federal funds to pay for needle-exchange programs, further legislative action is not required to allow funding but merely a finding by the secretary of health and human services that needle-exchange programs reduce AIDS transmission and do not increase drug use.

Letters must be exclusive to The Post, must be signed and must include the writer's home address and home and business telephone numbers. Because of space limitations, those published are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to acknowledge those letters we cannot publish, we appreciate the interest and value the views of those who take the time to send us their comments. Letters intended for publication should be addressed to Letters to the Editor.

NIH's recent statement was not the first time a government agency or a government-funded study has concluded that needle-exchange programs can decrease the spread of infection without increasing drug use, and thus recommended that the ban prohibiting use of federal funds be lifted. The National Commission on AIDS (1991), the University of California (1993), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1993) and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (1995) all reached the same conclusions.

If the medical and scientific evidence is so clear, why does the ban persist? It is increasingly obvious that the "dangerous chasm" between science and policy emanates from policies set in the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy, whose simplistic mantra of "no drugs" is incompatible with federal funding of needle-exchange programs. A statement on needle-exchange from the drug policy office dated Jan. 31 said that it "will not advocate a Federal policy that is centered on government provision of the tools to support addiction." The statement went on to explain that "needle exchange is neither an adequate substitute for drug treatment nor a preferred means of facilitating entry into drug treatment." There are more than enough official scientific opinions to enable Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to save thousands

of lives by decreeing that the politically motivated anti-scientific ban on federal funding of needle-exchange programs—the "dangerous chasm"—has ended.

SIDNEY M. WOLFE, M.D.
Washington

The writer is director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group.

The Washington Post

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Is city's needle program legal?

By HAROLD L. JAMISON the experimental pilot program. Despite overwhelming opposition to a free needle exchange program for IV drug users, New York City's health commissioner has given the okay to establish four sites to kick-off

Dr. Stephen C. Joseph stated in announcing locations of the sites (Oct. 20).

However, increasing opposition from the Black-community professionals and agency executives, into action to stop has prompted the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, a

52-member organization consisting of a cross-section of the city's Black politicians, clergy, social policy experts, medical professionals and agency executives, into action to stop

While agreeing rising

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49/N.Y. AMSTERDAM NEWS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1988
numbers of AIDS victims must be addressed, they disagree with the city's approach.

"There is no evidence that the city's plan would reduce the spread of the HIV virus and there is great concern regarding the message such a program would send to IV drug users and to our youth," explained Debra Fraser-Howze, executive director of the commission located 105 E. 22 Street, Manhattan.

"On Thursday (Oct. 20) the commission overwhelmingly voted to oppose the city's plan to distribute clean hypodermic needles as an experiment, to reduce the spread of AIDS to intravenous drug users. We endorse the Citizens Commission on AIDS' statement that supports the immediate provision of treatment for every intravenous user who wants it and expanded efforts to draw IV drug users into treatment."

At two sites, Lower Manhattan District Health Center, 303 Ninth Ave., and the Bushwick District Health Center, 335 Central Ave., Brooklyn, participants will receive counseling and exchange used needles and syringes for clean ones.

The other two locations, Riverdale Health Center, 160 W. 100th Street, and Crown Heights Health Center, 1218 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, participants will receive the same counseling, but no exchange of needles. Critics of the program assert it will encourage drug use and question the legality of such a program.

"We're not going to have it," Fraser-Howze said. "All of the doctors of the commission have reviewed the protocol from a medical point of view; and the lawyers are reviewing the protocol from a legal point of view."



HEALTH CARE



Primm says there are other options to needles

By JESSE H. WALKER
A leading Black authority on AIDS and drugs is critical of the city's controversial program to hand out clean needles to narcotics addicts to slow the spread of AIDS primarily because there are no other options offered.

Dr. Benz J. Primm, head of Addiction Research Treatment Corp. of Brooklyn, and a member of President Reagan's AIDS Commission, expressed his views Saturday on The McCrea Report, aired on WNYW Channel 5.

The program has been sharply criticized by Blacks and Hispanics as racially discriminatory because of the high rate of IV drug use among minorities; the critics also maintain that the program encourages drug abuse. Harlem Councilman Hilton B. Clark the most vocal critic has called it genocide and said its proponent, Health Commissioner Dr. Stephen Joseph should be arrested.

After a week of the program, in which the city enrolled eight drug addicts, Health Department officials remained upbeat about the much-criticized plan. But Clark called the first week's turnout "paltry" and said demonstrations would be held

vacancies in some." Primm said the city could act as a conduit, since there are three to five openings in various centers, but he said the addicts don't know of them.

"We could use that money spent on advertising to give the message to the young," he said. "Not as now that it's OK to use drugs if you use clean needles."


Health expo is scheduled for Sunday

The Fountain of Health will present a business, health and psychic expo from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18 at PS 175, 175 W. 134th St., in Harlem.


The event, to be addressed by prominent community experts including Dr. John Henrick Clark, the famous Black historian, will feature workshops, lectures and readings. As usual there will be traditional African vendors, marketing their wares.

There also will be workshops on spiritual development, education, health, the family and economics. Speakers include Amous Wilson, author of Psychological Development of the Black Child; Dr. Alufiel Ben Yehudah, a famous lecturer, and Lloyd Strayhorn of WLIB Radio.

Donations are \$10 for adults, and half price for those aged 8-18. Children under 7 years of age and seniors are admitted free of charge. For more info call 212-542-7057; 212-293-9852 or 914-428-4809.




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CALL THE AIDS



Rangel needles

By SIMON ANEKWE
Amsterdam News Staff

Assenting that "it is morally and spiritually wrong" and "inhuman" for the City Administration to offer "death on the installment plan" through its free needle distribution to "New York's guinea pigs," Congressman Charles Rangle, Wednesday, called on Health Commissioner Stephen C. Joseph to stop it.

But State Senator Joseph Galiber said next day: "The threat of possessing dirty needles is much more important than all that nonsense" that Rangle and other opponents of the program were voicing.

Rangle had written to Joseph, Nov. 8, the day after the program began with only two participants, and asked him "to turn back now" and just get addicts into a drug treatment program.

"Every needle exchanged in this counterproductive program

wastes valuable city resources, sends the wrong signals to all drug users and appeals to our lowest moral standards," the letter said.

"If your objective is prevention and treatment, let us work together with our other colleagues in government to create the needed program," it concluded. But the program continued and an aide to the Commissioner said, Friday, that "over a dozen people had enrolled."

Continuation of the program led House Narcotics Chairman Rangel to charge that "we have sold out our moral stand against drugs without having any impact on the drug problem." The recipients had become "expendables" being turned into "laboratory animals," Rangel stated.

He compared the needle program to the 1932 Tuskegee experiments in which some 400 Blacks—suffering from syphilis

were untreated. "The New York City Health Department is toying with the lives of New York's underclass," the Congressman charged.

"This issue goes beyond politics and good government. It is a question of what is humane," Rangel added as he asserted: "It is imperative that the medical community and our religious leaders speak out against this moral outrage."

All that was "nonsense," Sen. Galiber volunteered when he called back a reporter. The latter had wanted clarification about his office press release that stated: "Senator Galiber blasts critics of new needles exchange program."

The release was factual, he said. After State Health Commissioner Dr. David Axelrod first came out with the free needle idea, "with a push by Cuomo," prosecutors threatened to arrest anyone seen with non-

prescription needles or syringes. So he introduced a bill in Albany to make it no longer illegal to possess a hyperdermic needle or syringe without a prescription, the Senator stated.

Critics should give the program a chance "before they try to torpedo it as a failure," that statement said.

"If only one person participates in the program and is saved from the ravages of AIDS, I think we can count it as a success," the statement ended.

And reinforcing the point, Sen. Galiber said over the telephone: "The threat of possessing dirty needles is much more important than all that nonsense."

While the Congressman first raised the alarm over the free needle program, the cry has spread city-wide. In Manhattan, City Councilman Hilton Clark has been an outspoken, critic of the needle exchange program, which the Council's Black and Hispanic caucus solidly opposes.

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Robert C. Dorf ex-
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assess her injuries."

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Also contends other

parts of the suit case have him
perplexed and annoyed. to date
he has not received a record of
the incident from Diane Con-
yers of the Brooklyn District
Attorney's office, from EMS or
Brookdale Hospital, who claim-
ed they have lost the records of
treatment.

"Brookdale has lost all of
their records and EMS have not
provided them at this time,"
Dorf stated. "They claimed
when we had our municipal
hearing in March 1988, that she
(Conyers) would provide the
EMS records. But she just re-
cently provided an affidavit
saying she was about to provide
them. She claimed in the af-
fidavit that because we gave
them the wrong time in the
notice of claim that she couldn't
find them. Well I don't buy that
at all. We gave her the date of
the incident, the number of the
EMS vehicle and all the right in-
formation, so I don't find that
reasonable. she says that she
will provide them shortly."

The suit names the City and
its Health and Hospital Corpor-
ation, Brookdale Hospital, the
concert organizers and the
owner of the Esquire Club.
Police continue their investi-

gation into the shootings. No
one has been arrested or charg-
ed.

"The case is under very active
investigation by police and the
DA; Dorf stated. "It's a dif-
ficult situation because of the
large number of persons involv-
ed.

Attempts to contact Conyers
were unsuccessful.

The claim for \$5 million was
filed against the owners and or-
ganizers of the concert. When
filing a malpractice suit against
the City, no dollar amount can
be named in advance, according
to Dorf.



SUPPORT FOR FREE NEEDLES-These concerned citizens show their support for the free needle program aimed at reducing the risk of spreading AIDS by drug addicts. They demonstrated outside the New York City Department of Health, 125 Worth St. in Manhattan. Most Black leaders oppose the program. (Kevin Brown photo)

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ward Kay, the union's
-treasurer, had begun
p her powers under the
onstitution.

figurehead. The amendments
were scheduled for a referendum
in the preparation for which
defendants' actions precipitated
Johnson's suit.

Johnson had published a col-
umn regularly in the union's
monthly newspaper, the Local
1199 News. But in the wrang-
ling, Kay and his executive
council team took unto them-
selves the right to say what
would be published and kept
president Johnson's column out
of the News.

In its decision the Court of
Appeals said: "We agree with
the district court that, where
the executive council has seized
control of the means of union
communication, 'the duty of the
president to report to the mem-

Parents group warns City on free needles

The New York City Parents
Group, formed in portest of the
announcement by the city that
free needles will be distributed
to drug addicts, has filed notice
that it will hold the city and
Mayor Koch responsible for any
accidents caused by discarded
needles distributed by the city.

A spokesperson for the group
stated: "This is absolutely the
worst of a series of instant
ideas that this administration
has come up with. They are
bankrupt for leadership ideas
and always seem to come up
with programs that increase
rather than reduce the hazards
that they intend to address."

The group will also demand

that the group that issues the
needles will be responsible for
collecting the used needles, and
should publicly file a plan on
how they are to do this to insure
that the recipients do not dis-
card the needles in trash cans or
on public streets for kids to pick
up or for an unsuspecting
pedestrian to stumble on and
scratch themselves.

Any such accident, even with
a needle that might not be
AIDS infected, would cause suf-
fering and worry to the injured
person for up to ten years,
wondering if they would con-
tract the dreaded disease.

Notice was issued to the
Mayor's office on Monday, Oc-
tober 31, by the group.

By RUTH PADAWER

White residents in Howard Beach continue to downplay racial strife in the quite Queens neighborhood, as the murder trial which brought the area notoriety enters its fifth week.

But Blacks who work in the predominantly white neighborhood are not optimistic. They say the clash between 12 white youths and three Black men that is the subject of the trial is predictable in a community twisted by tension between Blacks and whites.

"They don't want Blacks in this neighborhood, period," said a Black middle-aged janitor who has worked at Howard Beach's Bernard Fineson Development Center for retarded children for the past 14 years.

"I'm not afraid to walk the streets here," she continued, adding that she did not want to be identified. "But a lot of people won't. They won't go out at all. There's a lot who've had trouble. Plenty of people."

Whites in the neighborhood disagree.

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Experts see AIDS cases on rise

By HAROLD L. JAMISON
"New York City is home to more people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) than any city in the nation," according to the New York Department of Health.

"Manhattan residents account for 48 percent of adult cases and 24 percent of pediatric cases in the city."

To provide practical information on preventing and living with AIDS, Manhattan Borough President David N. Dinkins held a Community Dialogue on AIDS forum, Oct. 31, at City College, Sheperd Hall, 138th Street and Convent Avenue.

"This epidemic is a crisis which requires the best efforts of all of us," stated Dinkins in his message to the participants. "The agenda for action is as straight forward as it is urgent. In the absence of a cure, massive and candid public health education is our best weapon against the spread of the virus."

Dinkins joined with labor, community, legal and health groups to help educate the public, and has sponsored a proclamation naming the week of Nov. 1, through Nov. 8, AIDS Week in the City of New York.

In opening remarks Dinkins dispelled the notion of helplessness against the AIDS virus.

"As you participate today, I would like you all to keep one thing in mind," Dinkins stated. "We are not powerless in the fight against AIDS. The information about how AIDS can be prevented is available to us. We must know it and most importantly, we must use it. Knowledge is power in this epidemic."

Keynote speaker, Dr. Rudolph E. Jackson, professor and acting chair, Department of Pediatrics, Morehouse School of Medicine and medical consultant AIDS Program, Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga., revealed some startling statistics.

"I originally intended to bring a slide presentation," Jackson said, "but I'm here with no slides to simply come down to earth and talk to us as community people. New York City probably knows more about AIDS than any other city in the nation. You have experienced more morbidity, sickness and death with this virus since its initial outbreak in 1971, than any other city."

There have been 10,954, reported cases of adults and children with AIDS in New York since 1979. Of that number, 6,334, are dead or 58 percent. Minorities account for 56 percent of reported cases.

"In 1991, it is estimated 279,000 to 300,000 people will have contracted AIDS," stated Jackson. "And there still will be more minorities."

Shocking, 91 percent of children with AIDS are racial minorities. Most of their parents used intravenous drugs (167 out of 207).

Intravenous drug abuse is now surpassing homosexuals as the highest risk group," Jackson stated. "Black and Hispanic users of intravenous drugs are 20-times more likely to develop AIDS. Why?" Jackson asked rhetorically. "It's part of the fabric of our socio-economic, educational and cultural point of view. We are at greater risk for not only AIDS, but for everything else."

There were 1,044 AIDS deaths in Manhattan in 1986. Of these, at least 415 were Black or Hispanic. More than 30 people died of AIDS-related illness in every Manhattan community board except Lower Manhattan.

"In the absence of a vaccine and treatment there is only one thing we can do," Jackson said, "make people more aware and informed."

Contracted the virus because one or both of their parents used intravenous drugs (167 out of 207).

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Rangel outraged over budget cuts in drug funds

Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control called a news conference in dismay and anger at the President's budget proposal for FY 1988.

"These actions by the Administration seriously call into question their commitment to an effective national drug abuse strategy," stated Rangel. The committee chairman was joined by Ranking Minority Member Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY) and other Select Committee Members.

Specifically the proposed budget would: eliminate the desperately needed state and local narcotics law enforcement assistance authorized by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. By law, this important program provides \$225 million to state and local governments for each of FY 87, FY 88 and FY 89; drastically slash drug education. The drug bill authorized \$200 million for FY 87, \$250 million for each FY 88 and FY 89, but Reagan's proposal includes only \$100 million for FY 88; and

not request new funds for drug abuse treatment services. Instead, the Department of Health and Human Services will spread out over a two year period the additional monies for those services provided in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 (\$262 million). In the meantime, funds for the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant will be frozen at the FY 87 level of \$495 million.

"When the President signed the Anti-Drug

Abuse Act into law at an impressive White House ceremony on October 27, 1986, those of us who have been involved with drug abuse issues for many years felt that at long last we were witnessing a willingness on the part of the Administration to work cooperatively with Congress in fashioning effective anti-drug programs." An exasperated Rangel continued, "but when you look at this budget proposal you see that behind all the glitz, there's not substance. We can't combat drugs with talk and fanfare; we need a commitment, a serious commitment of law enforcement resources, education programs and treatment funding. A commitment to control the drug crisis facing our nation is clearly absent from the President's budget."

More and more narcotic substances are being smuggled into the United States each year as production increases to record levels abroad. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act includes provisions to enhance international narcotics control efforts with the source countries. Congressman Gilman posed the question, "how can we tell our friends and allies to do more when under this particular aspect of the administration's budget, we will be doing less?"

In conclusion, Rangel called for reinstatement of the funds authorized in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. In addition, he urged the President to fill the position of White House Drug Policy Director and to move as quickly as possible on conven-

ing the White House Conference on Drug Abuse mandated by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act. Rangel pointed out, "the conference is critical in coordinating the war on drugs. Not only will it examine the Federal narcotics control efforts, but the role of the Federal government in assisting state and local involvement in drug law enforcement, treatment and education."

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... (Small text at the bottom right, partially cut off)

MAYOR ED KOCH

Addicts needles supply idea bad

By PETER NOEL

Special to the Amsterdam News

The heads of two drug rehabilitation programs in Harlem this week blasted state health officials for studying the possibility of giving some drug addicts free needles to halt the spread of AIDS.

"Providing needles would encourage individuals to think that drug abuse is condoned in some form or fashion," said Sydney Moshette, executive director of Reality House whose ambulatory drug rehabilitation clinic helps more than 500 people turn away from drug use.

"What is needed is prevention and educational efforts concurrent with drastic improvements in the quality of life in the community."

State Health Commissioner David Axelrod last week tested public reaction to a plan to give needles to addicts. But Axelrod has not endorsed the plan described by Mayor Edward Koch as a good idea.

Koch's health commissioner Stephen Joseph said Sunday on WNBC-TV's News Forum: he would like to begin experiments with small groups of drug addicts who would be given clean hypodermic needles. AIDS is spread among drug users who use the same needle to inject drugs.

"This would involve a restricted geographic area and a small number of people," Joseph told reporters. "Perhaps in the magnitude of hundreds rather than larger numbers."

But Joseph advocated a "carefully controlled study that would help us decide what is best to do next."

Said James Allen, executive director of the Addict Rehabilitation Center at 1881 Park Ave., in Harlem: "They should take the money they are going to spend to help addicts get high and expand programs that provide treatment."

James' program oversees the treatment of 250 drug free former addicts. He said with a waiting list of 200 drug victims begging to get into the program, the needle plan was ill-conceived.

students." A former principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. High School in Manhattan, Mickens said he is still trying to figure out why the Board would target some nine schools in predominantly minority neighborhoods for the birth-control program.

"Why isn't the program placed in Riverdale?" Mickens asked. Riverdale is an affluent community that is predominantly white. Mickens also asked why the Board didn't make the pro-

Others had objected to the program because they said it did not involve parental permission.

Meanwhile Robert Wagner Jr., president of the board said Tuesday that he was considering disciplinary action against Mickens for his refusal to enforce the birth control program at his school.

Wagner told reporters that Mickens' action "is in clear violation of board policy", and added that he would hope the principal would reconsider his op-

Minors win abort without parental

On Nov. 7, Minnesota minors forced to go to court before obtaining abortions were sent home and told Minnesota could no longer intrude on their personal, moral decision.

In ruling in *Hodgson v. The State of Minnesota*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota struck down as unconstitutional the state's law requiring mandatory parental notification for minors seeking abortions.

Janet Benshoof, director of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project and lead attorney on the case, said that "this case is a vindication of the rights of minors who have been needlessly suffering under a system designed to make political points at the expense of young women's constitutional rights."

Up until the ruling, Minnesota has required teens seeking abortions to notify

their parents or to go to court and prove that it was in their best interests or that they were mature enough to make their own decision about whether to continue a pregnancy. Minnesota's statute required notice to both biological parents, if living, without exception for divorce, incest, adoption, spousal battering, or other compelling circumstances and even if the parents were never married or the pregnant minor had never met her noncustodial parent.

The court's opinion striking down the Minnesota law is the first to establish the catastrophic effect that such laws have had on teenagers, their families, and the provision of quality medical care. Although Judge Donald D. Alsop permanently enjoined enforcement of the Minnesota parental notification statute on narrow grounds, he found overwhelm-



SPECIAL GUEST - Pupils at the Harriett Tubman Elementary School on Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. and West 126th St. in Harlem welcome Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins on campus to participate in a special program. The theme for the day's occasion was "Yes I Can" and "I am Somebody." (Shelley Brown Photo)

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NYAN

Opinion

HISTORY OF

Drug abuse in U.S.

By CHARLES B. RANGEL

From the Khyber Pass to the cloud-wreathed peaks of the Andes, from inaccessible Mexican poppy fields to the jungles of Burma, the production and trafficking of illicit narcotics strains the resources of law enforcement officials everywhere while laying waste to those who succumb to their poisons. Opium, coca and cannabis, the three basic substances responsible for the drug epidemic in the United States and throughout the world today trace their histories back many thousands of years. Man's use and misuse of these substances likewise dates back centuries.

It was not until the 19th century toward the end of the Age of Discovery with the development of organized trade and travel between the nations that the medical misuse and widespread abuse of opium, coca and cannabis and their derivatives became a world problem. Scientific and technical progress resulted in the extraction of morphine from opium in 1805. Heroin was first synthesized from morphine in 1874. Cocaine was first extracted from coca leaf in 1855. The hypodermic needle was also discovered in 1855 and was immediately hailed as a medical breakthrough. Unfortunately the hypodermic very quickly became the instrument which most facilitated the worldwide abuse of morphine and eventually heroin and cocaine. The drugs themselves during this period were produced and distributed without controls.

In the early 1800's the Opium Wars were fought between the Chinese and the British. It was the British who introduced opium to the Asian nation and kept the flood of opium running to China. The Chinese paid for it with silver and wasted lives. Finally the Emperor destroyed all of the stored opium and declared an end to what one British historian says was probably the largest commerce of its time. However, the British in response sent warships and troops and crushed the Chinese defenders.

By 1900, the medical community and

world leaders began to recognize the problem of narcotics abuse and the dangers that it posed to the health of the world population. This led to the Shanghai Opium Commission of 1909 where the 13 major powers of the time met to consider ways to address the problem under control. The Harrison Narcotic Control Act of 1915 was one of this country's earliest efforts to stem narcotics abuse.

Between 1931 and 1934 the traffic and abuse of opium, heroin, morphine and cocaine did decline generally around the world. However, French organized drug production and trafficking groups were busy at this time setting up clandestine labs in Paris and Marseille to illicitly manufacture heroin from raw materials smuggled from Eastern Europe. The business thrived, for there were, by the mid-1930's, still no worldwide controls upon production of opium, coca and cannabis. Cocaine in this period was not readily available throughout the world. Not until the early 1960's did criminal groups in South America develop the capacity to produce cocaine on a scale large enough for it to be a cause for great alarm.

With the outbreak of World War II, and the fall of France in June 1940, the smuggling of heroin from France ended entirely. A small and sporadic traffic of heroin, morphine and opium continued from the Far East but this too ended in 1941 with the attack on Pearl Harbor. During the war years limited quantities of heroin entered the U.S. from Mexico. Opium was also brought here from India and Iran. The addict population however dropped to under 10,000 people.

Following World War II, the United Nations assumed the responsibility formerly held by the League of Nations to affect the international narcotics control mechanism. One of its first orders of business was the placing of controls on two newly created synthetic narcotics, methadone, developed in Germany and Pethadine or Meperdine, developed by the U.S. and Britain.

The period, 1951 to 1964 was one that saw a great deal of international involvement in the effort to halt drug abuse. The U.S. in 1951 enacted the "Boggs Law" which brought about the first minimum mandatory penalties for the sale and traffic of narcotic drugs. The Opium Protocol of 1953 limited opium production for export, allowing just countries to ship it overseas. Perhaps the most important international narcotics control agreement is the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs which also provided for bringing the cultivation of coca and cannabis under a system of control. Over 100 governments have ratified this treaty.

The "baby boom" of the post-war era was a phenomenon that caught many involved with narcotics control unaware. Those born in 1946 and after were moving into the 17 to 34 year old age groups by 1964. The potential drug market was enormous. In fact by 1964 the heroin and cocaine epidemic had begun in this country in earnest. The abuse of marijuana, LSD and others also rose to levels never seen before in the history of man. By the beginning of the 70's, heroin addiction alone was estimated to reach 650,000 out of a population of over 200 million people.

Today while the number of those addicted has declined some, it is still believed that about 4 tons of heroin enter the U.S. a year and that there are some 500,000 heroin addicts. It is also estimated that some 85 tons of cocaine enter the U.S. each year, an estimated 8 to 20 million people use it. As for marijuana, my Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control estimates that from 30,000 to 60,000 tons enter the country annually and that at least 4,000 tons are produced in the U.S. Approximately 25 million Americans are regular users.

These are certainly troubling statistics. In the weeks to come this article will take a closer look at the various narcotics as well as efforts being made to bring narcotics production, trafficking and abuse under control in the United States.

City housing problems

By DAVID N. DINKINS

Our city faces a grave crisis in providing adequate, affordable housing for all New Yorkers. We commonly speak about a housing shortage. I would

ty Housing projects;

*That 47,000 families have doubled up living with other families and friends;

*That whole families are living in tenement without even a hotplate

designed to get the money flowing quickly and easily into decent low and moderate income housing and not have loopholes that promote luxury develop-

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