

May 11, 1959

A COMPARISON OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE ACCORDING TO THE IDEAS OF  
CONTINENTAL CASUALTY CO. AND MEDICINE AS PRACTICED IN DARKEST AFRICA

One of the basic means of judging the practice of medicine as to the adequacy of medical care is the ratio of population to physician. Obviously, if there is too much population to each physician, there will be inadequate medical care. The fact that the physician is very skillful does not help much because it is just a matter of too many people to handle.

In my May 7, 1959 release, figures were given as to these ratios in normal civilian practice, army practice and under the regime fostered by the Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago. I will repeat the ratios.

Big cities of the U.S.    one doctor to 450 population  
U.S. Army                    one doctor to 400 men  
Average U.S. country practice    one doctor to 1000 population

Now we come to Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago.

Dr. Balboni-1952-    one doctor to 9,000 braceros  
Dr. Carter-1952 to 1953-    one doctor to 18,000 braceros  
Dr. Foster-1954 to 1956-    one doctor to 12,000 braceros and civilians  
July 1956 to March 1, 1958---period of free choice of doctors for the  
braceros- Each civilian doctor had about 300 braceros added to his  
basic panel of 1,000 civilians to make one doctor to 1,300 people.

It can ~~see~~ be seen from all the above quoted figures that the best ratio for the braceros existed in the period of free choice of doctors when the bracero was part of a group of ~~1,000~~ ~~1,300~~ 1,300 people to one doctor.

Since Mar. 1, 1958, Dr. Niewenhous was set up by Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago to handle 3,000 men on only a 2 hour a day basis and this arrangement continues to the present time. Now two hours a day is not full time medicine. Dr. Niewenhous is in private practice which is small and his civilian panel is estimated to be about 500 so that when added to the 3,000 braceros, there is a ratio of one doctor to 3,500 potential patients. This again is excessive and is 300 percent higher than the ratio where the bracero went to whatever doctor he desired.

All the above is the situation in Brawley, California and adjoining ~~area~~ area. I now refer the reader to Exhibit A which is attached as to the ratio in darkest Africa. This report is given out by WHO (World Health Organization) which is a branch of the United Nations. The report from Brazzaville give a ratio of one doctor to 10,745 people. Therefore, the regimes fostered by Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago was actually worse than that in darkest Africa for three years. When we look at the WHO report for Asia and Central America, we can easily see that the braceros of Brawley are even worse of than people in Asia and Central America.

The Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago may claim that the workers have free choice of doctors. However, all the ranchers are told to bring the braceros to the insurance company doctor. The independent doctors are harassed by Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago. Doctors have been told by them not to handle the workers. Claim forms have been refused to the doctors. Medical bills of the doctors have not been paid.