

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 6, 1971

BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS SCORE HEALTH CUTS

FROM: CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM  
CONGRESSMAN GEORGE W. COLLINS  
CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS, JR.  
CONGRESSMAN RONALD V. DELLUMS  
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.  
CONGRESSMAN WALTER FAUNTROY  
CONGRESSMAN AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS  
CONGRESSMAN RALPH H. METCALFE  
CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL  
CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES  
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES B. RANGEL

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CLOSING MINUTES BEFORE TAKING ITS SUMMER RECESS APPROVED FOUR PROVISIONS WHICH DISTRESS US AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BLACK POPULATION.

THE HOUSE APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION TO STRIKE FROM THE H.E.W. BILL \$6 MILLION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SICKLE CELL ANEMIA. THIS ILLNESS IS PREDOMINATELY FOUND AMONG BLACK PEOPLE AND ONLY RECENTLY HAS ATTENTION BEEN FOCUSED ON ITS HORRORS. THIS \$6 MILLION WOULD HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE DISEASE TO SUPPLEMENT THE \$6 MILLION ALREADY APPROPRIATED FOR RESEARCH. THE DRIVE TO CONQUER, ONCE AND FOR ALL, SICKLE CELL ANEMIA HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN RELEGATED TO A LOWER PRIORITY.

THE HOUSE FURTHER COMPROMISED THE FIGHT AGAINST LEAD PAINT POISONING. THE H.E.W. APPROPRIATIONS AS APPROVED ALLOCATES \$7 AND ONE HALF MILLION FOR THE TREATMENT OF THIS TYPE OF POISONING WHICH AFFLICTS MILLIONS OF THOSE PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS NATION'S CITIES. THE SENATE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT \$15 MILLION BE SO ALLOCATED BUT THIS FIGURE WAS CUT IN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE HOUSE.

A THIRD PROVISION WHICH WAS UNWISELY APPROVED BY THE HOUSE WAS A RECOMMENDATION TO STRIKE FROM THE BILL A SENATE REQUEST FOR \$6 MILLION FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL. THIS ACTION IS REGRETTABLE BECAUSE IT AFFECTS THE HEALTH OF NOT ONLY BLACKS, BUT PUERTO RICANS AND POOR WHITES AS WELL WHO HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THIS DISEASE. THIS NATION DECEIVES ITSELF IN THINKING THAT TUBERCULOSIS HAS BEEN CONQUERED. AMONG THOSE LIVING IN THE INNER CITIES AND IN APPALACIA, THE THREAT OF T.B. PERSISTS.

THE FOURTH PROVISION WHICH CONCERNS US IS THE HOUSE'S COMPROMISE OF THE ALLOCATION FOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION. THE HOSPITALS OF THIS NATION ARE FAR TOO OVERCROWDED AND CANNOT CARE FOR THE PEOPLE

MORE

MORE

MORE

ADEQUATELY. AGAIN, THE SENATED RECOMMENDATION WAS REDUCED AND APPROVED BY THE HOUSE.

THE CUTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE IN LIGHT OF A SEEMINGLY NEW COMMITMENT TO SAVE THE HEALTH OF ALL AMERICANS. THE ALLOCATION OF \$237,531,000 FOR COMBATING CANCER IS WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED BY US, BUT WE FEEL THAT THIS SAME COMMITMENT MUST BE MADE TO FIND THE CURES FOR SICKLE CELL ANEMIA, LEAD PAINT POISONING AND TUBERCULOSIS. IT IS NOT ADEQUATE TO HAVE CONGRESS REACT ONLY TO ONE DISEASE AT A TIME WHILE IT ALLOWS OTHER ILLNESS TO TAKE ITS TOLL. THE CAUCUS MEMBERS WERE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THE CUTS CAME IN A LARGE \$20.8 BILLION LABOR H.E.W. APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT WHICH WOULD HAVE REQUIRED MEMBERS TO VOTE UP OR DOWN THE ENTIRE PACKAGE.

CAUCUS MEMBERS PLAN TO WORK TO RESTORE THE CUTS IN A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL WHEN THE HOUSE RECONVENES IN SEPTEMBER.