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THE MYTH OF METHADONE

The business of building a strong Black Nation is a momentous task indeed. Especially so when so many of our black brothers and sisters have fallen victim of the slavemaster's tragic magic - narcotics.

Our efforts to awaken and liberate the minds of our unfortunate brethren must be redoubled in light of the rise of another snake from the putrescent, Medusa-like head of the white man.

We have been conned into believing the white rhetoric of such arch devils as Nixon, Rockefeller, and Lindsay that Methadone Maintenance Programs in the ghetto areas, where there are high incidences of drug addiction, was the answer to the addiction problem.

How about this for sheer brass-assed duplicity and cunning: First the white man floods our communities with his crystalline poison and enslaves our brothers and sisters to a living death and then in a stroke of evil genius he sees a better way to perpetuate his genocidal stranglehold on the addicted segment of our community through administering free "high" to the addict in the form of methadone at various Federal and State funded centers throughout our communities.

With the increase in brothers and sisters addicted to heroin and the parallel increase in brothers and sisters addicted to heroin and the parallel increase in the commission of crimes by the addict and the ascending death rate among addicts by overdoses and other drug related diseases, we welcomed the methadone maintenance proposals of white doctors, psychologists, sociologists and congressmen as the overall answer to the drug problem. Any misgivings that we might have had concerning the addicting of the addict to methadone to cure his addiction to heroin we quietly submerged beneath the welter of white propaganda and our own selfish expediency. Woe unto us for not examining the white man's solution for worms; and worms there are aplenty.

Methadone is a synthetic drug with an addicting quality, and like heroin, it was discovered in Germany, just after World War II. Research of methadone at the Public Health Service Hospital at Lexington, Kentucky has unequivocally proven that methadone has all the euphoric and addictive properties of morphine.

Let us check our relationships. Morphine is a derivative of opium and heroin is the derivative of morphine. Since we have already established that methadone, a synthetic drug, induces the same euphoric and addictive states as morphine, we know that we are dealing with a very dangerous drug indeed.

With this in mind let us examine a typical methadone maintenance center and see what makes it tick. The center at the corners of Waverly Place and Fulton Street in Brooklyn will do.

Walk by the building that occupies this corner between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. on any day and you will see 30 to 40 brothers and sisters engaged in conversations or just standing idly along the wall looking for all the world like the zombies that they have become through the ingestion of methadone. A fleeting question may cross your



mind as you pass on as to why they are all just standing around, isn't there any program offered to them by the staff at the center that would fill their empty hours?

The author's curiosity got the best of him several weeks ago. I entered the lobby of the building and spoke to an East Indian brother sitting at the receptionist's desk.

"I'd like to have some information about your program here," I said.

"Oh, you want to get on the program," he flatly stated in reply.

"No. I just want to know what the program offers in the way of rehabilitation for the addict who is under methadone treatment."

He looked at me as if he didn't understand why I was asking for information instead of just coming in and getting right on down with the thing there. I thought it best to explain my request further.

"Do you have any brochures or pamphlets that would explain the workings of the program to me? Something about the successes and failures of the treatment of the addicts under care here?"

"I'm sorry," he said, "we don't have any pamphlets or brochures."

I found that particularly odd. No pamphlets? No brochures? How could a program of such tremendous social significance function without public information brochures?

When the Fulton Street Narcotic Rehabilitation Center opened last year, headed by a doctor Primm, a forceful speaking black man, there was much fanfare. Doctor Primm appeared on television and announced the aim of the project. He stated that the new methadone center would be geared to accommodate the addict by giving him free methadone as a substitute for the expensive heroin. He declared that the addict's craving for heroin would be nullified by the treatment of methadone and thereby reduce the crime rate caused by addicts who had to steal and prostitute themselves in order to finance their habits.

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Further described how the center would be staffed by workers and guidance counselors to aid the addict treatment to secure living quarters, jobs, welfare and the addict with any personal problems that he or she might have. While within the program the addict would be required to participate in psychotherapeutic group sessions. The center would be for ambulatory patients any addict seeking help had only to walk in off the streets and he or she would receive the attention of the Rockefeller gave his blessings to the program and he personally inspected the facility and praised it for Primm and his staff, promising his full support. It were the tragic beginnings of one more of white Amerikkka's experiments in genocide against black people.

The procedure for an addict seeking admittance to the program is a relatively simple procedure. An admittance counselor interviews the addict and solicits personal information on a questionnaire. At the end of the interview the addict is told that he will be called within a specified number of days for a complete physical examination, after which he will be given his first dose of orange colored methadone and a plastic identification card. He is then a card-carrying member of the Zombie Anonymous.

Since the inception of the Fulton Street Methadone Maintenance Project there have been an almost continual string of complaints from participating addicts that they do not receive a blockage dose of methadone (a blockage dose is one in which the addict receives that is strong enough to suppress any craving for heroin or which nullifies the physical symptoms of withdrawal); that the supervisory staff of counselors do not try to find them jobs; that the medical staff refuses to detoxify them from the methadone habit when they feel that they are psychologically able to stand on their own without any narcotics.

Each complaint has its own merit but the most serious by far is that the medical staff refuses to detoxify the now methadone addicted addict when he feels that he can make it without a crutch. This is the crux of the matter, the perpetuation of addiction to methadone.

In a booklet released by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare entitled "Narcotic Drug Addiction" it was stated, in relation to doctors administering drugs to help the addict rid himself of his vicious habit, "In sum, a physician may prescribe narcotics to anyone, whether or not addicted, if the purpose is to treat some painful disease and *not* to maintain an addict in a state of addiction for an extended period."

According to this statement the methadone maintenance center at Fulton Street is in direct conflict with medical ethics and practice. The author knows of several brothers and sisters who have been on the methadone program at Fulton Street for more than a year taking the drug.

The conspiracy to keep blacks chained to methadone can readily be seen when one takes into account the facts of physical withdrawal from heroin addiction.

It is a medical fact that withdrawal symptoms from the use of heroin is no more than a 72 hour process. It is also a medical fact that a dosage of between 20 to 40 milligrams

of methadone is sufficient to suppress the withdrawal symptoms associated with heroin addiction and to avoid the patient from becoming addicted to methadone, the 20 to 40 mg. dosage should not be prescribed for periods longer than 72 hours. The remainder of the problem of cure is psychologically dependent upon the addict's state of mind.

The methadone maintenance center at Fulton Street must have something else in mind then, other than relieving the addict from the slavish servitude to drugs because the methadone maintenance center builds up the 20 to 40 mg. dose, over a period of time, to between from 100 to 180 mgs., which is called the euphoric state, and there they are maintained for long periods of time, much longer than is necessary to get the addict over the period of physical withdrawal.

The maintenance of people on methadone for long periods of time is nothing less than legalized addiction and it aids and abets the very thing that it professes to cure, and in the case of the black addict it is genocide, as it deprives the Black Nation of a warrior, of a mother, of the productive potential of members of our community. Let us recognize it for what it is - Genocide!

To further accentuate this hideous white conspiracy against black people by the use of methadone, dig what's happening in the so-called legal system of justice - the courtrooms of New York City.

It is now common practice of the judges, legal aid lawyers and the prosecuting attorneys to conspire against a defenseless, indigent black accused of falling into one of the many white traps, by telling the brother that he can get a better deal on his case if he would accept the methadone program at Cross Bay Hospital, in Queens or at the Narcotic Addiction Control Commission facilities at either Green Haven Prison or Woodburn Correctional Institution.

The Brother, facing perhaps 40 years on a rubbery rap, grabs the proverbial straw of the drowning man as an alternative to the 40 big ones. He is told that all he need do is to submit to a test to determine if he is in fact a drug addict (such tests are conducted at the N.A.C.C. Facility at Riker's Island by four doctors).

What of it if the brother hasn't had a shot of dope for the eight or nine months that he's been locked up on the charge and he is not physically dependent on the drug, any drug!

He is also told that if he accepts the methadone program (sometimes referred to as the Rockefeller program) that he will be in the streets in from anywhere between 6 weeks to 6 months. This sounds like a good deal to the brother, and anyway, it's better than taking the chance of getting the 40 years at trial, so the brother goes to the N.A.C.C. thing on Riker's Island and gets certified as an addict, even though he hasn't had a shot of dope in eight months. Check it out! It happens every day in the courtrooms of New York City.

Methadone then becomes the lifetime proposition for another brother who could have possibly pulled himself together without this crippling drug.

That this white genocidal conspiracy affects all black people there can be no doubt. We cannot afford to remain aloof from it because it is happening to black people thereby depriving us of the potential additional strength and creative abilities in the formation of our Black Nation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am a Black High School student and your Black Newspaper is very helpful to me. Your paper is easy to read and anybody can afford it. The articles are creative and the drawings are impressive. My little brothers and sisters in the community can relate to you. Thanks for *our* paper. ●

Yours Sincerely,
P. B.



Dear Friend,

I have gone to *two* different insurance brokers who sell taxi cab medallions. *Both times I was refused. But my white friends were not.*

On June 26, 1970, I filed two complaints charging discrimination due to my color with the Human Rights Commission.

To date, November 30, 1970--five months later-- the Commission has failed to hold a hearing on either complaint.

I have tried to meet with Human Rights Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton on numerous occasions about inaction on my complaints.

Mr. Morris, her assistant, told me she was "too busy" to meet with me. If the Commissioner is too busy to meet with me and act on five month-old complaint, what is she "busy" doing?

Even though Mr. Morris told me that the Commission "has proof" that the defendants are guilty of discrimination, yet the Commission refuses to act.

If the Human Rights Commission refuses to act in accordance with the law, how can there be law and order?

Mayor Lindsay has abolished 500 city jobs for "economy reasons". If the Commission continues to refuse to act on complaints, let's pray to God that Mayor Lindsay will use his "economy measures" on the Human Rights Commission.

What is necessary to get action? Should it be GUNS' KNIVES' or maybe BOMBS? ●

Sincerely,
L. G.



THE UNCLE TOM I KNOW

My sister goes with this so-called brother who thinks that he is so much blacker than any other black person. He is constantly putting on and criticizing everyone by calling this person an "Uncle Tom" or saying that "that nigger get's on my nerves."

One day I went downstairs to my sister's apartment, and Mr. blacker-than-anyone-else was there. Immediately we got into an argument and he said, "why don't you get back up stairs Black Panther?", and I replied, "make me if you are so big and bad." The argument then developed into a fight and this dude began punching on me just as if I was a grown man until I began to cry. He then added insult to injury by saying, "get on upstairs Black Panther!" I gave him a "Yes Uncle Tom", and tipped upstairs.

About two weeks later he and my sister drove to the barber shop to get a shape up. I ain't never seen a person change their tune so fast when they get around black people. This dude became "instant black" when talking to the barber and other brothers that were present.

Yea, this is an example of a true Uncle Tom. ●



ED: The writer of the following abridged letter comes to us from a brother in Africa. ●

Dear Ed:

The Communist Party, U.S.A., has sold us out again - in the Angela Davis case. They are obviously using her as a pawn in furthering their own cause. I'm sure she could have left the states with ease but because she is hung up on this class struggle philosophy, which at the moment is ahead of its time, she placed herself on the sacrificial altar for the American Marxist - Leninists - Revisionists. Before class-struggle means anything to Black people, the race-struggle must be won.

We sincerely hope that by the time you receive this letter, the \$40,000 will have been raised and the homes saved. ●

Peace,
Bro. Gumps



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have read every copy of your great publication I could get my hands on and have passed them on to members of my family. They were so impressed with it they asked if I could get more; so would you please enter subscriptions for the persons on the enclosed forms. ●

Keep on Pushing
B.M.T., Newark

ED: Anyone wishing to purchase back copies can get them at the EAST, 10 Claver Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. ●



"VICTORY AND THE NIGGER PRINCIPAL"

Victory is falling down because of Clarence Kenny, Principal with the mind of a pre-mature baby. Victory has lost its teachers, lost his "History", and lost their pride as being a part of this school.

This "high class negro" who takes no kind of responsibility as being a principal suspended at least 10 students for not wearing the right kind of ties, or for not having a pen or pencil which I think is a minor responsibility.

He is of no use to us students. We protested for a "Black Man" instead we got a black-skinned jenney who has to use a mike at a classroom meeting.

In the past I "was proud", but now I've lost faith in this school because he doesn't have the qualities to be a principal. He doesn't even have the qualities to be a man in mind. He has no knowledge of his self or of his people. He doesn't even know our Great Black Leader Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik Shabazz). He doesn't know he is in the Twentieth Century and why he is still not on his ass. Well

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