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in this country. That the lives of a group of poor black men could be deliberately destroyed, reflects the total disregard that whites have historically shown for the lives of black people. The out-heard charges of genocide, which have been lightly discounted as wild-eyed rhetoric, seem astonishingly close to the truth in this instance.

In a recent article in the Philadelphia Daily News, Mr. Chuck Stone discusses the question of genocide, a question which is increasingly in the minds of a growing number of black Americans. In viewing the Tuskegee study, along with important other factors, such as the disproportionate number of black veterans dying in Southeast Asia, or the failure of the Government to cut off the flow of narcotics from these same Southeast Asian countries into the veins of our black children, even the most moderate must ponder some very ugly possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this Congress to move quickly with determination to allay the fears of black Americans by taking immediate action to prosecute the figures responsible for this hideous study, and to insure a just reparation for the victims and their families. I include the Washington Post article, and the article by Mr. Stone, in the Record:

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 8, 1972]

DOCTORS COULD AID SYPHILITICS IN 1936,
MAGAZINE CLAIMS

(By Jean Heller)

New York, August 17.—U.S. Public Health Service doctors had the knowledge and the medication as early as 1936 to cure black men participating in a federal syphilis experiment in Alabama, but the doctors withheld the treatment, a national medical magazine has reported.

Quoting from PHS' reports on the progress of the experiment, known as the Tuskegee Study, Medical World News reported that only 25 per cent of the untreated syphilitics were normal after several years of study, while all syphilitics treated with the best remedy known at the time were free from the disease.

The Associated Press disclosed last month that doctors at the PHS Center for Disease Control in Atlanta deliberately had denied treatment to participants in the Tuskegee Study, even after the discovery of penicillin, so that autopsies could be performed on those who died.

The treatment of syphilis in the 1930s and early 1940s consisted of weekly doses of mercury and bismuth followed by doses of arsenic. The treatment lasted between 18 months and two years.

CDC doctors have said the doctors who ran the study in the early years chose not to treat some 400 syphilitics with the arsenicals because the treatment could be worse than the disease and sometimes was fatal.

However, Medical World News quoted the CDC report, which indicated that early treatment was better than no treatment at all.

"Adequate anti-syphilitic treatment prevented all forms of clinical relapse . . . whereas only one-fourth of the Negroes with untreated syphilis were normal," the report said.

After disclosure of the study, current CDC officials in Atlanta said their records showed that seven men had died as a direct result of untreated syphilis. They also said at the time that the figure could be higher, and apparently it is.

CDC reports written in 1955, 1961 and again in 1971 said that of 92 untreated syphilitics autopsied between 1935 and 1953, "28 (or 30.4 per cent) had cardiovascular or central nerv-

TUSKEGEE STUDY

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 1972

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, the New York Times and the Washington Post reported on a study of the effect of syphilis, conducted by the Public Health Service, on 400 black men in Tuskegee, Ala. In the 3 weeks since that report was issued, the horror initially experienced has grown to the point of outrage. We witness continuing accounts of doctors who curiously watched the debilitating effects of syphilis proceed unchecked in 200 human beings. At least seven cases resulted in death.

Alleged statements by these physicians, in justification of this hideous experiment, have been incredibly complacent. They have expressed certainty that, with current knowledge of treatment of this disease and the change in approach to human experimentation, such a study would not be conducted today.

These statements are rather less than convincing however, when one considers the fact, acknowledged by these physicians themselves, that an effective treatment of syphilis with penicillin, had been in active use for at least 20 years. Yet the victims were never even offered this treatment. Just this morning, the Washington Post carried an article from a medical journal which quotes a report by the Public Health Service stating that even the use of the limited treatment available before the discovery of penicillin could have benefited most of the syphilis victims. Apparently, the chance to witness the full, deadly effects of this disease proved too enticing to the physicians conducting this study.

This case is particularly abhorrent in view of the deep-seated racism existing

ous system syphilitic lesions as their primary cause of death."

In an earlier report, CDC doctors found untreated syphilis shortened life expectancy among Negroes.

"The fact that nearly twice as large a proportion of the syphilitic individuals as of the control group had died is a very striking one," the report said. "It can be said that the life expectancy of a Negro man between the ages of 25 and 50 who is infected and receives no treatment is, on the average, reduced by about 20 per cent."

Present and past CDC doctors say that Tuskegee and surrounding Macon County, Alabama, were picked for the experiment because the area had the highest syphilis rate in the nation in 1932, when the study was undertaken.

Dr. Donald R. Printz, CDC's chief of clinical research, had said that of the men tested in the area in 1932, 89 per cent had positive blood tests for syphilis.

When CDC was asked to recheck that figure, officials conceded they had misread the areas' population breakdown. "Instead of being 89 per cent syphilitic and 20 per cent uninfected, Macon County in the 1930s was 80 per cent black and 20 per cent white," the medical magazine reported.

[From the Philadelphia Daily News, Aug. 1, 1972]

SYPHILIS AND GENOCIDE (By Chuck Stone)

It either takes a tough constitution or a renegade morality to sit quietly by and watch 200 men die without doing anything about it. I call it genocide. Have you got a better name for it?

The act of genocide was even officially sanctioned by the United States Public Health Service.

The experiment began 40 years ago with about 600 black men. Of those 600, about one-third were free of the disease: two-thirds showed evidence of syphilis. Of the syphilitic group, half were treated, but the other half—about 200—received no treatment. And they received no treatment even after penicillin was developed during World War II.

At first blush, the charge of genocide may be considered extravagant rhetoric. But, those 400 black men were "systematically and deliberately destroyed" as a racial group and that's exactly what genocide is.

Even my reaction is a delayed one because I was so revulsed by this official slaughter, I shied away from a comment. What do you say about a group of sadists who wear the snow-white uniforms of medical researchers which permit them to play God with the lives of human beings?

The 13-member Congressional Black Caucus shocked me back into reality with its demand yesterday that "everyone responsible for these hideous acts of crime be brought to justice."

The Caucus also called for reparations to be paid to the families and victims of this 40-year-long experiment.

In its demand for reparations, the Caucus resurrected an idea that enjoyed a wide currency in the black community a few years ago. Former SNCC Director James Forman demanded that America's churches pay reparations to black people for supporting American racism. The idea was contemptuously dismissed as far-fetched, but the Caucus's demand of yesterday gives it a renewed respectability.

"The overall effects of this immoral revelation," continued the Caucus's statement, "extend far beyond the lifelong sufferings of myriad black families and their unborn offspring. It poignantly reflects the debased value that white people have historically placed upon black lives."

That's an extremely harsh indictment for a group of distinguished elected officials to level against the citizens of their own country.

But its harshness in no way compares to the devaluation of human life that the United States government placed upon the lives of a group of its own citizens.

Sure, in the name of scientific advance, there have been medical experiments in which the victims were infected with a disease or a virus to test the effectiveness of a newly discovered cure. They knew the possibility of death, but they also knew that the medical researchers were hanging in there all the time trying to save their lives.

Not the U.S. Public Health Service this time.

And I think that's an essential difference—that doctors or researchers who usually dedicate themselves to trying to save human beings this time sat casually by for 40 years and watched them slowly die without making any effort to help them to hold on to life.

During the last few years, there has been a rising tide of opinion in the black community that there is a "secret" or "unofficial" plot to wipe out black people.

The continued existence of "detention centers" around the country and some of the cattle round-up methods used by some officials have in dealing with dissent have not diluted that charge.

Family planning or planned parenthood has been widely viewed by many responsible black professionals and leaders as a subtle, but effective effort to destroy the black family and limit its growth.

The high rate of black veterans' deaths in Vietnam (12.3%) compared to the percentage in the armed services (9.8%) worries a black community who see its manhood being systematically wiped out.

And now comes along a U.S.-government-stamped genocide program that takes on some of the coloration of Hitler's systematic destruction of 6 million Jews.

Sure, dismiss the analogy as ridiculous and tut-tut me with the admonition that I'm really being paranoid.

But when you live in a country that deliberately facilitates the deaths of 200 of its citizens of an ethnic group of which you are a part, that's not paranoia.

That's "real-a-roid" and a lot of black people, like the Congressional Black Caucus, are wondering just how much their American citizenship is worth these days.