National Health Federation BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1976

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CANCER THERAPY FREEDOM OF CHOICE SPECIAL!

Alaska Points Way: Laetrile Legalized

GOV. HAMMOND

Gov. Hammond Tells Why He Didn't Veto B-17 Measure:

'The People Have a Right to Choose'

California Cancer Treatment Freedom Bills to Get Public Hearings This Fall

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Antifluoride Initiatives Qualify in 3 States

Dedicated to the Protection of Health Freedoms

THE
NATIONAL HEALTH FEDERATION BULLETIN

Protection of Health Freedoms — *Published Monthly*

Volume XXII — Number 8 — September 1976

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The Bulletin serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important health issues including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. All articles published in the NHF Bulletin — including news, comments and book reviews — reflect the individual views of the authors and not necessarily official points of view adopted by the Federation.

National Health Federation Bulletin, published monthly January through December, except July-August which are combined, at 212 West Foothill Boulevard, Monrovia, California 91016, by National Health Federation, a nonprofit corporation. Don C. Matchan, Editor. $1.50 of the $8.00 annual membership is paid as a yearly subscription to the National Health Federation Bulletin. Single copies, 50 cents. Second-class postage paid at Monrovia, California 91016.

LAWS OF ALASKA

1976

Source CSHB 881 am

Chapter No. 227

AN ACT

Relating to interference with physician-patient relationships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. No hospital or health facility may interfere with the physician-patient relationship by restricting or forbidding the use of amygdalin (laetrile) when prescribed or administered by a physician and requested by a patient unless the substance as prescribed or administered by the physician is found to be harmful by the State Medical Board in a hearing conducted under the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.-62).

* Sec. 2. No physician may be subject to disciplinary action by the State Medical Board for prescribing or administering amygdalin (laetrile) to a patient under his care who has requested the substance unless the State Medical Board in a hearing conducted under the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) has made a formal finding that the substance is harmful.

Permitted to become law without signature
Actual effective date: September 19, 1976

Governor Hammond Lets It Become Law

ALASKA FIRST STATE TO LIFT LAETRILE BAN

The step-up by the federal government to enforce the FDA ban on Laetrile may be spurred by the upsurge of efforts at the state level to repeal restrictive legislation and spell out the right of the individual and doctor to use nontoxic therapies of their choice.

Such a movement is underway in two states – California and Alaska. That northern state became the first in the Union to declare independence from domination of the medico-political hierarchy. In late May the Alaska Senate passed H.B. 881, authored by Rep. Joe McKinnon – a bill which calls for "freedom of choice for doctor and patient, and their right to mutually agree on medical treatment without interference." Clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, persons, groups, associations and organizations will be restrained by the legislation from interfering with a medical doctor's right to prescribe any medical treatment he believes beneficial.

The House earlier had passed the measure 32-6, and it became law – without the signature of Governor Jay S. Hammond – on June 21. The governor was under heavy pressure to veto the bill, likewise there was strong pressure for its adoption – as evidenced by the lopsided vote in each branch of the legislature.

Although criticized by some because he refused to sign the bill, the fact he did not veto it – as he was urged to do by organized medicine and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – constituted tacit approval, in effect.

Whether it will be possible to obtain Laetrile legally in Alaska still had not been finally settled, however, since the new law provides it could be banned in the state if the Alaska Medical Board rules it is harmful.

"The board has not taken a position on the use of Laetrile," said an Associated Press story. "The panel is scheduled to hold a meeting the end of July, and there were no indications a special meeting would be called to discuss Laetrile. It also was uncertain whether Laetrile would be on the agenda at the regular meeting."

FDA Commissioner Alexander Schmidt sent a telegram to Governor Hammond June 8 expressing fear Laetrile would "lure cancer patients away from standard treatment." He also said the substance will continue to be illegal in interstate commerce. But Governor Hammond replied to a reporter the day after the measure had become law: "The main question in my mind is how far do you go in protecting people from themselves?" He said people he is acquainted with take Laetrile and

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Why He Didn't Veto B-17 Bill

Believing that the patient has an "overwhelming right" to receive Laetrile if desired, and if prescribed by a doctor, Alaska's Governor Jay S. Hammond explained why he did not veto H.B. 881, in the following letter to the legislature:

"My decision not to veto the bill, in spite of the recommendation to do so from several physicians, hospitals and the Food and Drug Administration, is based on one strong personal conviction – the individual's right to decide on a course of conduct or a mode of treatment, given the alternatives available. In my opinion, that right outweighs the shortcomings of the bill and the possible complications for the medical profession.

"I am sensitive to the problems created by H.B. 881 for the hospitals and the Medical Board of Examiners. It unquestionably interferes with necessary risk management programs and important disciplinary controls over physician conduct. I agree it is an unwise precedent for the state to legislate in the arena of the practice of medicine. Nonetheless, I feel these problems are overwhelmed by the patient's right to receive Laetrile treatment if he so chooses and his doctor so prescribes, as well as the physician's right and obligation to use that treatment which in his professional judgment is best.

"It is important to note that Laetrile is nowhere prohibited for sale or consumption, although the Food and Drug Administration has prohibited its shipment in interstate commerce. Tests vary greatly as to whether it is beneficial, benign or harmful. Many case histories have been offered which at least create a question of beneficial effect, and at most demand a new investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and improved scientific measures. Additionally, court decisions are revealing a lack of clear judicial consensus on many issues surrounding Laetrile use, prescription and acquisition.

"My major reservation about this legislation is that patients may seek Laetrile and doctors prescribe it without a thorough review of all alternative treatments. In those cases, a delay is created in the choice of other proven treatment methods for patients who are neither responsive to nor satisfied with Laetrile. I am aware that such a delay might possibly contribute to the failure of other treatment methods which might have succeeded if administered earlier. Such choices must be made by the patient and his physician.

"As a layman, I cannot judge these things. As a governor, I can only review the bill, consider the thoughtful testimony and correspondence, and determine what seems to me in the best interests of persons affected. In this instance, I am persuaded by patients, their families, and physicians, and have concluded that it allows each Alaskan to decide for himself."

Hammond Commended for Supporting Freedom Bill

In a congratulatory message shortly before H.B. 881 became law June 21, NHF President Charles I. Crecelius wrote Alaska's Governor Jay Hammond as follows:

"We have learned of your tacit support of H. B. 881, the freedom-of-choice-bill authored by Representative Joe McKinnon which passed through the Legislature with strong support.

"Please accept our warm congratulations on your decision to permit this legislation to become law! It places Alaska in the unique — and we believe enviable — position of being the first of the 50 states to spell out by statute the right of doctor and patient to use nontoxic therapy if desired.

"One of the therapies which will be permitted under H. B. 881 is, of course, Laetrile (B-17), the nontoxic substance which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has refused to submit to clinical testing since 1970.

"For more than 20 years the National Health Federation has championed this right of doctor/patient, and we naturally are elated with the action of your Legislature . . . We are mindful of the pressures against this legislation, and want you to know the general public does support this kind of freedom.

"The *Cincinnati Enquirer* has just completed a two-part series on this substance, and we enclose it. If you lack time to read the entire article, the conclusions in Part Two provide a brief but updated summary which I would urge you to read.

"Passage of H. B. 881 is a milestone in the slow but steady march toward a restoration of the principle that the individual has a God-given right to choose what kind of treatment he or she desires. You now will make that God-given right a state-protected right. We salute you, Sir!"

(Continued from Page 2)

recommended passage of H.B. 881.

The activity in Alaska followed presentation to the legislature of 1,500 signatures seeking remedial legislation.

The Alaska Legislature also passed a resolution calling on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to "stimulate more aggressively research on the effectiveness of Laetrile in cancer therapy, and thereby produce definitive and non-contradictory data." That resolution passed the Senate by unanimous vote, and was approved by the House 32-1, the single opponent being Dr. Mike Beirne, a pathologist.

And at the national level there is movement. Minnesota's Senator Hubert Humphrey has requested

'A Positive Step Forward,' Says Crecelius

Nontoxic Therapy Freedom Bills to Interim Study

After a three-hour hearing in Sacramento May 26, the Assembly Committee on Health referred to an interim study committee proposed legislation (A.B. 4196, 4197 and 4198) removing restrictions on the therapeutic use of foods, herbs and diet.

Testifying for the measures were NHF Legislative Advocate Clinton R. Miller, Attorney George W. Kell, Dr. Gary Gordon, Frank Salaman, G. Edward Griffin, and Frank Pursley, Modesto contractor who said he has "had to break the law to save my life." He said he had refused radiation or surgery for throat cancer, and that when he started taking Laetrile "I could not talk. Now I can talk." NHF Board Member Dave Ajay was prepared to testify but "time ran out."

Appearing against the bills were Dennis Warren of the Sacramento District Attorney's office, consumer fraud division; Dr. Sherwood Lawrence, California Department of Health; and Dr. Joseph Cosentino, Department of Consumer Affairs.

These witnesses said Laetrile is "an FDA unapproved drug," and Dr. Lawrence told the committee the Proxmire bill passed the Senate "as a rider to the Heart/Lung Bill and never was given policy approval. It was not adopted on its merits."

Acting as devil's advocate, Chairman Keene asked opponents what a doctor can do under existing law — "if he prescribed aspirin would he be in violation of the law?" Considerable time was used in the answer, and at the close of the hearing the chairman remarked, paradoxically, that proponents of the legislation had turned him against the bills, while testimony of opponents tended to make him favor the measures. An observer expressed the belief Mr. Keene "has an open mind."

This tribute, however, was not accorded Assemblyman Frank Lanterman, Pasadena land developer who made no bones about his an FDA hearing on Laetrile "in light of continued favorable comment on its effectiveness by users." An aide in Mr. Humphrey's office later reported that the FDA plans no hearings "in the foreseeable future."

The Committee for Freedom of Choice in Cancer Therapy has requested the Senate Health Committee chaired by Senator Edward M. Kennedy to push for legalization of Laetrile, and/or a clearance by FDA for testing analgesic effects in cancer patients. The request was accompanied by documentation and exhibits addressed to the Committee's medical panel.

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distaste for the legislation, and according to Attorney Kell, "proudly stated he was on the committee which wrote the restrictive anti-cancer bill in 1963."

Mr. Kell told *The Bulletin* that Assemblyman John R. Garamendi, a rancher-businessman, suggested amending the legislation to provide that doctors using Laetrile register with the State Health Department and report clinical results.

"While this amendment was being drawn up in another room," he said, "and while Mr. Campbell, author of the bills, was out of the hearing room, Mr. Lanterman moved that the issue be referred to an interim study committee. He showed himself unwilling to consider the evidence, did not participate in the questioning."

In his lead-off statement to the committee Mr. Miller first praised members for conducting the hearing so quickly after introduction of the bills, then admonished that failure to approve the legislation would be "disgraceful." This was resented by several members, who said in essence, "we're okay when we agree to hear the bills, but if we don't favor them, we're bad guys."

Vice-Chairman Leona H. Egeland, a teacher, expressed concern about the scope of the bills, said adoption "would open a Pandora's Box."

As the room was being cleared following conclusion of the hearing, Chairman Keene asked departing persons to "please leave quietly so we can proceed with the next matter." Mr. Kell said he found it "appropriate" to respond thus: "Mr. Chairman, the doctor who used Laetrile to cure Mr. Pursley of throat cancer has just been arrested. It can be truthfully said that doctors *are* arrested for curing cancer."

Assemblyman William Campbell, author of the NHF-sponsored bills, told Mr. Miller he hopes a public hearing will be held at which advocates of freedom of choice in health decisions can be heard. Such a hearing is likely to be held this fall, a staff member told *The Bulletin.*

Although disappointed that the measures did not receive committee approval, NHF President Charles I. Crecelius nevertheless viewed as a "positive step forward" the decision to refer the bills to interim study.

"The bills were introduced on rather short notice," he said, "with Committee hearings following very soon thereafter. We realize there wasn't sufficient time to indicate to legislators the genuine support existing for this legislation throughout California. We must mount a campaign of increased intensity until – as happened with our food supplement legislation in Congress – there is no way for legislators to go except to approve this vital legislation.

"In voting to refer the bills to an interim study committee, it would appear that support for the bills was sufficient to prevent rejection at this point. We will be in touch with our membership, with suggestions as to the steps to be taken between now and the date of the hearing.

"We admit to disappointment in the Committee's failure to recommend the bills out for passage, but we recognize it is traditional for those exercising dictatorial control over approaches to health to exert powerful influence in legislative circles. The public, therefore, must speak louder if a proper balance is to be achieved. We look forward to increased effort, and and victory."

Assembly Health Committee Queried

What Foods in California Are Verboten to Cancer Patients?

NHF President Charles I. Crecelius has asked members of the California Assembly Committee on Health if there exists "a list of foods or food components which are outlawed in this state and unavailable to cancer patients."

In a letter June 15 to Committee Chairman Barry Keene and members, Mr. Crecelius said:

"We would like to know what plans you have for followup studies on the Campbell bills – A.B. 4196, 4197 and 4198 – scheduled for interim study. We would like to request that at least two hearings be held by the Committee, preferably one in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles.

"In rereading A.B. 4198 which would provide section 1708.5 as a new section to the code listing restrictions placed on medical doctors in dealing with treatment of cancer patients, the bill seems to be worded simply and clearly: "This chapter shall not apply to any food, any food for special dietary use, or any component of any food prescribed by a practitioner."

"It seems clear to us that those suffering from cancer require careful guidance in the selection of foods and nutrients now denied them under State law.

"Do you have, or is there available to your Assembly Health Committee, a list of the foods or food components which are outlawed in California and unavailable to cancer patients? Are there any foods you or your Committee wish to have banned from sick people? We can think of none that should be. We believe that nutritional guidance, or nutritional therapy or support, is important in helping ill persons to a speedier recovery.

"Please consider the simple merits of this bill, and let justice be done."

HISTORIC PEN

President Ford presented Trudy Engel with a pen he used in signing the Food Supplement Bill. She has passed it on to Bob Hoffman who has placed it in his Hall of Fame in York, Pa.

NHF Position 'Incomprehensible'

Health Department's Medical Chief Downs Campbell Bills

W. Sherwood Lawrence, M.D., medical officer of the California Department of Health, is unequivocally opposed to enactment of NHF-sponsored legislation giving individuals and doctors the right to choose nontoxic therapies to treat degenerative disease.

In a letter responding to a letter from President Charles I. Crecelius to Governor Brown explaining the National Health Federation position, Dr. Lawrence wrote:

"Your recent letter to Governor Brown has been referred to this office for reply. We appreciate your courtesy and interest in advising us of your recent proposal and hope you will feel free to communicate with us about this or other legislation of mutual interest.

"The hearing (May 26) before the Assembly Committee on Health provided an opportunity for legislative evaluation of your proposals. The recommendation for interim study may provide an opportunity for even more thorough appraisals. The proposals outlined in your letter and presented in Mr. Campbell's bills would make radical exemptions to some of the fraud provisions of the Penal Code, and negate much of the consumer protection given by the Cancer Act. In addition, the validity of a good part of the Safety Code regulations governing standards of drugs, dietary food content, their preparation, purity, etc., would be in doubt and possibly invalid.

"It seems incomprehensible that a health-oriented organization such as yours would knowingly continue to espouse legislation whose thrust, albeit not apparent initially, could only lead to wholesale, unregulated, uncritical experimentation on, and fraudulent exploitation of the unfortunate ill, particularly cancer patients. Therefore, may I suggest you consider a more appropriate course to achieve the flexibility of action you desire.

"The Legislature acting in the public's interest has already provided for the evaluation and introduction of substances like amygdalin, etc., as therapeutic agents for treatment of cancer provided under Sections 1721 and 1707.1 of the Health and Safety Code or Section 26670 in the Sherwood Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (also a portion of the Health and Safety Code).

"We recommend that these legal channels be utilized. Full knowledge of the safety and efficacy of such substances would provide the public with the greatest benefit possible.

"Thank you for your interest."

NHF: Meeting the challenge of today for a better tomorrow.

Government Pursues Its Relentless Course

Laetrile Indictments Against 16, Including Eight Foreigners

Although the indictments were returned by a San Diego federal grand jury May 20, the news was delayed until the morning of May 26 and two of 16 indicted on charges of conspiracy to "smuggle the illicit drug Laetrile" and B-15 into the U.S. were arrested in Sacramento at the hearing of the Assembly Health Committee taking evidence on Assembly Bills 4196, 4197 and 4198.

It appeared to be another "staged" drama, with tv cameras trained on Dr. John A. Richardson of Albany, Calif., and Frank Salaman of the Committee for Freedom of Choice in Cancer Therapy, Los Altos.

Dr. Richardson was placed under arrest and handcuffed by Customs officers as he was entering a Capitol building to attend the Assembly Health Committee hearing. Mr. Salaman was arrested as he was leaving the hearing room. Both were released after posting bond of $25,000 each, with arraignment set in San Diego May 28.

Meanwhile in Dr. Richardson's Albany office another drama was taking place. Seven federal men flashed their badges, announced to Nurse Angela Gillmer they had come to arrest Business Manager Ralph Bowman. She told them to wait in the reception room while she called Mr. Bowman. At this point "they threw me against the wall, went through the door. John Chase, an assistant, saw this and followed them in, protesting the treatment I had been given. He was manhandled, and sustained a swollen wrist and small cut."

Taken to San Francisco, the judge instructed the federal officers to permit Mr. Bowman to use the telephone twice. Ignoring the court's order, he was held incommunicado four hours and was released only after the judge, hearing what had happened, adjourned court and went to personally order his release on $25,000 bond.

Eight U.S. and eight foreign citizens were indicted by the San Diego grand jury.

In its investigations the government examined bank accounts, and according to U.S. Attorney T. J. Knoepp, two of those indicted — Dr. Ernesto Contreras of Tijuana and Dr. John A. Richardson of Albany, Calif. — had deposited upwards of $2 million (each) in U.S. banks over a two-year period.

Others named in the secret indictments were Andrew R. L. McNaughton, president of The McNaughton Foundation; Cyto Pharma de Mexico and its owners, Jorge, Gustavo and Sergio Del Rios, manufacturers of Laetrile in

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Laetrile Modern 'Snake Oil' Says Prosecutor

Judge Bohanon Retorts to FDA 'Hatchet Man'

U.S. District Judge Luther Bohanon of Oklahoma recently gave permission to three more cancer victims to import Laetrile, bringing to six the number he has permitted to do so, to date.

The three are all women – Laverne Martin of Pauls Valley who is hospitalized in Oklahoma City, and two Tulsa sisters, Helen W. Wallace and Hazel Ward Ahrens. The judge's ruling prohibits the Food and Drug Administration from interfering with the women's importing the "drug," and came only after a lengthy courtroom debate between Judge Bohanon and FDA attorney Paul Ragan.

During the debate, which was as near an argument as an attorney risks with a federal court, Judge Bohanon referred several times to Glen Rutherford, who brought the initial suit for the right to take Laetrile, although it never has been approved by FDA.

Rutherford testified that he had been diagnosed as having cancer of the rectum, and that after taking Laetrile he no longer had the condition. In responding to FDA Attorney Ragan's argument that Laetrile is illegal and should be denied everyone, Judge Bohanon said: "Here's a man ready to go on the operating table, but he didn't, and now he's working 12 and 14 hours a day. There must be something to Laetrile, and denying these three women the right to take it if they want to would be out-and-out cruelty."

The prosecuting attorney insisted that Laetrile is "quackery, and the snake oil of the 20th century," and added that there were patients years ago who thought horse blood was a remedy.

Judge Bohanon interrupted, saying, "To me Laetrile is a food . . . some makes you sick, some makes you well."

But Mr. Ragan (sometimes called "the Laetrile hatchet-man"), didn't give up without a struggle: "Under the Food and Drug Act, any food offered in the cure of a disease is a drug. Mineral oil has been held a drug under this ruling."

"Pretty soon the air we breathe will be classed a drug," the judge countered. "If the doctors are hopeless, have surrendered, what do you do? It's the milk of human kindness to let cancer victims have Laetrile, they are already at the end of their rope. What do you say in the Rutherford case?"

"There was no acceptable medical evidence to back up his claim," Attorney Ragan replied. "I'm unqualified to make a medical judgement."

"But you can see what you can see, just as I see that you are healthy and not dead. That is proof you are living. And I must continue to credit Laetrile with Rutherford's recovery until it's proven to the contrary. Further, I challenge the FDA to run objective tests for its effectiveness. In the meantime I will continue allowing importation of Laetrile until a higher court tells me to quit."

Comment: Just as power corrupts corruptible people, so does "government by consent of the governed" give people the power to unseat corrupted public servants, and to dissolve or restructure the bureaucracies that have come to destroy the very ones they were meant to protect, as Dr. Wiley, first FDA director predicted.

This first appeared in the June issue of Eden Ranch Organic Consumer Report, *published monthly ($3, P. O. Box 370, Topanga, Calif.) by Betty Lee Morales and John T. Clark.*

Tijuana; Guido Orlandi, Sr., president of Food Science Laboratories, Burlington, Vt., and Robert W. Bradford and Frank Salaman, officers of the Committee for Freedom of Choice in Cancer Therapy, Los Altos, Calif. Thirty-three were named as "coconspirators" but not indicted. (On what legal grounds the U.S. government is able to indict citizens of foreign countries is not clear, but perhaps bank accounts can be impounded).

Although available in 24 countries, Laetrile (amygdalin, B-17) is banned in United States because of a ruling of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. On the basis of this ruling – made despite FDA refusal since 1970 to clinically test Laetrile – other government agencies such as the Customs Service and the Department of Justice – have caused the arrest and prosecution of doctors and individuals involved in distribution of the substance in this country.

The Bulletin has learned that at least one congressman is considering offering legislation to force a lifting of the ban on nontoxic therapies, including Laetrile. His identity is not disclosed, at his request, pending formulation of the proposed bill.

B-17 Indictment Against Pair Dismissed

At the request of the U. S. Attorney's office in San Diego, U. S. District Judge Howard Turrentine in June dismissed an indictment against Donald Hanson and Donna Schuster, both of Rochester, Minn., charged with smuggling Laetrile (B-17) into this country from Mexico.

The case received nationwide publicity, with Mrs. Schuster charging that she and Mr. Hanson were "set up by government agents." She told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* that it was her intention to dispute the Food and Drug Administration on whether Laetrile is a drug or a food, as she believes, and to seek an injunction to prevent FDA from interfering with the sale, import, or manufacture of the substance.

FDA Apricot Kernel Raid Enrages Many

Congressman Asked to Consider Legalizing B-17

Seizure by the Food and Drug Administration of 500 pounds of apricot kernels from the Tree of Life warehouse in St. Augustine, Fla., last March has raised a storm of protest.

Warren H. Folks, P.O. Box 711, Jacksonville, Fla., regional director of Conservative Citizens' Council, has asked Congressman Charles E. Bennett to ascertain from FDA Commissioner Alexander Schmidt "the law or authority giving him the right to confiscate apricot kernels," and "to give serious consideration to early introduction of legislation to protect the rights of cancer victims who depend upon Laetrile, amygdalin, Vitamin B-17, apricot, apple and peach seeds – or any other kind of seed and/or health food – for survival.

"I recommend stiff punitive measures for those found guilty of cutting off any citizen's life supply of food, water, air, or medicine. It should be a capital offense to take the life of another human being, regardless of whether it is done with a pistol or by policy, or whether death is instant or gradual."

He told of a friend, J. Mercer Johns of Jacksonville, who was given about six months to live last year, started taking Laetrile and "from all outward appearances had canceled his 'appointment with the undertaker.' Then he was cut off from his Laetrile supply by a judicial edict. He finally located the St. Augustine firm from whom (until late in March) he could buy the life-saving kernels, grind them up in a food chopper and make his own supply of B-17 powder which he used in lieu of the liquid Laetrile. But now the life of my friend is suddenly in jeopardy *again*, and I am fighting mad. Who wouldn't be, considering that tomorrow it might be you or I depending upon a peach, apple or apricot seed for our very life and breath?"

The Jacksonville *Times-Union and Journal* (April 4) carried the story of Rhonda Eskelson, 23, who refused a hysterectomy 17 months earlier, became a Laetrile user, and now says she is "cancer free."

"After being told she would be dead by November 1975 without surgery," said the newspaper story, "Mrs. Eskelson studied health food literature and started a diet of 30 apricot kernels daily to fight the cancer. Eight months later she went to Mexico, was placed on 500 mg. of Laetrile twice daily, a million units of Vitamin A daily, and a small dosage of pancreas enzymes. 'My doctor told me to cut down on the apricot kernels, that I was eating enough to kill a person,' she said. 'He also told me the cancer had invaded the uterus, but had since receded and there remained only a small amount on the cervix.'

"After a week at the Contreras Clinic, she returned home and continues a diet of three kernels daily and avoids certain foods. She says she had a paps smear in November 1975 'and there was no abnormal cell development, no cancer at all,' she said.

"Mrs. Eskelson believes in Laetrile. Officials estimate dozens and perhaps hundreds of persons in the area are experimenting with it. But the federal government, the American Cancer Society, and most physicians are vigorously opposed to its use . . ."

This issue of *The Bulletin* carries this tongue-in-cheek letter to the editor from Jean K. Cain of Belmont, Calif.: "I am searching for answers to the following questions. If you can assist me, I would appreciate it. Is the FDA prohibiting production and sale of apricot kernels and apricot oil?

"Is there an FDA restriction against the ownership of an apricot tree or a bitter almond tree? Any information you have regarding FDA regulations against apricots, or rather nitriloside-bearing products, would be welcomed."

'Why Doesn't State Impound Alcohol, Cigarettes?'

Dave Ajay Takes UC Prof To Task on Apricot Smear

When NHF Board Member Dave Ajay, owner of Dave's Diet & Nutrition Foods, Citrus Heights, Calif., sees a smear – be it of nutrition or fluoridation—he responds. The following appeared in the April 14 issue of *The Sacramento Union* in an article titled "On Apricot Kernels":

Dave Ajay, chairman of the National Nutritional Foods Association Retailer Executive Committee and proprietor of Dave's Diet and Nutrition Foods, complained about a recent article credited to Dr. Gaylord P. Whitlock, Extension Nutritionist, Cooperative Extension, Division of Agricultural Sciences, University of California, Davis.

In the article, the question was asked: "Health food stores say that apricot kernels are very nutritious. Are they?

Dr. Whitlock answered: "Apricot kernels cannot be recommended as a source of nutrients. Apricot kernels, apple and pear seeds contain a cyanogenic glycoside called amygdalin. During digestion, amygdalin releases hydrocyanic acid, a compound that can be toxic in excessive amounts. How much is too much? A tiny bit may be toxic to one person while a larger amount may not be noticed by another. It depends on the age, general health, physiological condition, etc.

"The California State Depart-

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ment of Public Health recently reported an incident of possible cyanide poisoning in two health food faddists who consumed large amounts of pureed apricot kernels purchased from a local health food store. Eating a few kernels may not cause illness in one person, but may in another. The minimal number of apricot kernels that would cause death in humans is not known. Apricot kernels have caused death of children. Upon analysis, they were found to contain 275 mg cyanide per 100 g. Death of hogs has been caused by peach pits containing 164 mg cyanide per 100 g."

Mr. Ajay's comments follow:

"1. We resent such tactics as evidenced by the article, to smear the nutrition food stores. It seems to be a nationwide maneuver, as shown by recent news stories to put down the use of Vitamin B-17, otherwise known as amygdalin, or its product form, Laetrile.

"2. We are not permitted to sell Vitamin B-17 (Laetrile), even though it is legal to do so in many foreign countries; and sometimes the opposition to the use of Laetrile as a nutritive element to be introduced into the diet of cancer patients has reached frantic proportions, as witness recent accounts published in the news media of persons arrested who are making it available in California.

"3. However, our type of store has sold apricot kernels for many years (approximately 18) ever since it was reported that the people of Hunzaland whose population is statistically free of cancer and enjoying one of the greatest spans of generally good health and longevity known on this planet were known to consume great amounts of apricot kernels!

"4. Tons and tons of apricot kernels are exported to Europe each year for use by the populace there, and great amounts are used in this country for marzipan candy and bitter almond flavoring.

"5. In researching for material, we find that the basis for such a statement that "Apricot kernels have caused deaths of children" was quoted from a paper referred to as, "Hazards of Health: Cyanide Poisoning from Apricot Seeds among Children in Central Turkey," by M.D.s James W. Sayre and Sukru Kaymakcalan – *New England Journal of Medicine* of May 21, 1964.

"6. Mike Culbert, author of *Vitamin B-17: Forbidden Weapon Against Cancer,* states that in researching his book, he elicited from California authorities that there had been no known fatalities of Americans, let alone Californians, from eating such seeds.

"7. Author Culbert says, further, 'Second, the two fatalities referred to came from nine cases of cyanide intoxication reported in Children's Hospital of Hacettepe Medical Center, Ankara, in 1957. I had been told earlier that the original work involving these cases, or at least apparently these cases, had not proved specifically that apricot kernels were at fault, and that the children in question had consumed many different things from piles of garbage.

'I Want That Freedom to Choose!'

'Leave the Apricot Kernel Alone,' Says Californian

The right of "freedom to choose" between chemotherapy and the apricot kernel is emphatically desired by Mary Lou Donovan, Millbrae, Calif., who wrote the following letter to the editor of the *San Mateo Times:*

"After losing several close friends and relatives to the ever growing killer, cancer, I have tried to learn what I could about the disease and the controversy between the FDA and Laetrile advocates. I have learned that Laetrile (B-17) is not a drug but a food substance, a vitamin derived from the kernel of an apricot. It is also found in the seeds of many fruits, millet, beans and grasses.

"The FDA has finally decided it is no longer concerned about its toxicity (this was the previous reason even though it is no more toxic than sugar or salt.) Now the approach is that people who have cancer might use Laetrile instead of conventional treatment such as surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. I discovered that radiation burns, and chemotherapy is a poison. Healthy as well as malignant cells are harmed, and many persons have had bad side-effects. Yet the FDA wants to save us from the apricot kernel.

"I have talked to cancer patients who had been given up by their doctors and began using Laetrile as a last resort. They are still walking around today. I have also read other testimonies as to its merit.

"Laetrile advocates have never

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"'The entire case, then, consists of two known fatalities reported under at least incompletely reported circumstances in central Turkey. The European rap sheet is four cases of non-fatal intoxication in 22 years.'

"2. We nutrition food retailers can no longer buy apricot kernels because the State Bureau of Food and Drugs has effectively choked off our supply by harassing actions and impounding stocks of our supplies.

"9. We then must wonder, 'Why don't they impound the stocks of cigarettes, liquor and aspirin, so they cannot be sold, either?' It most certainly has been proved that these items are the source of much sickness, pain, suffering and death. It is a recorded medical fact that at least 100 persons die from aspirin poisoning in the U.S.A. each year.

"10. We admit that apricot kernels could be toxic, if consumed in large amounts. But so can steak, ice cream, etc. We ask that your newspaper first ask for documentation, before defaming our industry."

Why Pick on Apricot When Many Others?

The April *NHF Newsletter* said state officials are preparing regulations "to warn the populace of possible cyanide poisoning from apricot kernels."

My literature search (and I am sorry to say I have long since forgotten the sources) indicates that these officials should also include a warning against the rest of the items on the enclosed list. Why are they doing not even a halfway job by mentioning only apricot kernels? I have no doubt that further search would identify more items for the list below. In the limit there would be nothing to eat — only drugs! (Perhaps also hormone-fed beef, pork and poultry).

Why is the Rockefeller-I.G. Farben cartel and all the Charlie McCarthies they pull the strings on such as FDA, AMA, and ACS singling out the apricot kernel?

In order of descending strength these are beta cyanogenic nitrilosides (anticancer foods):

Apricot kernels (seeds), peach kernels, cherry kernels, apple seeds, almonds (with enzymes — pancreatic, thymus, papaya, and others); carrots, celery, spinach, cabbage, apple, papaya, buckwheat, millet, flaxseed, elderberry jelly, prunes, lima beans, succotash, chick peas, plum jam, bean sprouts, millet sprouts, buckwheat and millet toast and rolls, sorghum molasses (from sorghum cane), rabbit (fed on clover), apricot, peach, cherry or plum wine or brandy prepared by crushing the whole fruit, raspberry family, macadamia nuts, bamboo sprouts.

— Verne S. Myers
4610 Commonwealth Ave.
La Canada, Calif. 91011

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said it cures cancer. They say it is an aid to help control cancer, along with nutritional therapy including minerals and enzymes. It is also gaining merit as a cancer preventive. Many metabolic doctors across the United States are finding that in patients it can provide a sense of wellbeing, a gain in weight, and is a great help with pain. (Some have been arrested for using Laetrile as part of their metabolic therapy.) For the terminal patient, doesn't this alone constitute a good enough reason for allowing them to choose?

"Cigarettes, alcohol, DES, red dye 2 and special K are just a few items which have been passed by the FDA (not to mention products containing high levels of lead), yet they have proven to be dangerous to health. But no one has yet proved anything dangerous about the apricot kernel. This is too much for me to comprehend.

"The Committee for Freedom of Choice in Los Altos has been doing a fantastic job trying to inform the public about much maligned Laetrile, and that another of our freedoms is going down the tube. For its trouble, the organization has had phones tapped, the president, Bob Bradford, an outstanding citizen, arrested by some 20 FDA agents and his car confiscated and forfeited even before trial. Lately, in the news media, there have been some insidious remarks inferring possible Mafia connections. This is absolutely ridiculous. The people at the Committee are some of the finest, best informed I have ever met.

"I wish the FDA would get back to the things that have been proven dangerous to our health, and get on those drug companies who sponsor them, and leave the little old apricot kernel alone. If I should ever decide I might need or want Laetrile, I want that freedom to choose."

'NHF Has the Muscle to Win This One'

The National Health Federation's drive to legalize the use of nontoxic cancer therapies, including Laetrile, will succeed "in time," believes S. L. Jamison, D.V.M., N.D., P.O. Box 391, Mariposa, Calif. Dr. Jamison wrote Marguerite D. Campbell, publisher of the *Mariposa Gazette,* as follows:

"More has showed up on the great Laetrile controversy, so I am sending it on, as you may want the background.

"In animal work, Laetrile was used on animals with transplanted tumors and it did not work. There is a different "biological soil" between an animal with a transplanted tumor and one with a natural one. It is not scientific to gratuitously conclude with this kind of evidence that it would not work on people with the natural disease.

"The whole thing makes no sense, as Laetrile is chemotherapy, and chemotherapy is not banned under California law.

"It is amygdalin, a cyanide glucoside, and too much would kill a person. It was found in work on people with cancer that it was a valuable aid in treatment. It is not a 'cancer cure' per se. It is an aid to treatment of this disease.

"The National Health Federation can muster up a lot of muscle in this thing, and since the organization will put it over in time, there are going to be a lot of red faces in the California Department of Health, as it will be found Laetrile is of value.

"Nevada does not have the restrictive laws with respect to cancer that California has, so when Andrew McNaughton sets up his Laetrile clinic in Nevada the evidence will be there for all to see..."

LUPUS RESEARCH

California Governor Brown has approved legislation appropriating $400,000 to the state Department of Health to study the causes of lupus erythematosus, a tissue disorder, usually fatal, characterized by pathologic changes in the vascular system.

Judge Says Laetrile Ban 'Reasonable'

Laetrile Review Denied, Attorney Seeks Support

Efforts of 74 Laetrile patients to obtain court relief from the judgment banning its use by Dr. James Privitera have been blocked a second time by the same U.S. District Judge—Howard B. Turrentine—who denied a motion that the case be heard by a three-judge court.

Following this ruling, Attorney George W. Kell, 1700 McHenry Ave., Modesto, Calif., sought the assistance of the National Health Federation "in publicizing the legal status in the Laetrile fight, and in raising funds to support Dr. Privitera's patients. Their funds were exhausted when they went to Dr. Privitera for treatment, and they have not contributed to the action in any way."

Mr. Kell sought the three-judge-court hearing on grounds the patients' constitutional rights had been violated by the State Department of Health which imposed the Laetrile ban, with legislative sanction. The attorney charged due process had been violated, that the patients' right of doctor-patient privacy was violated, and that they were denied equal protection under the law since cancer patients are denied Laetrile "while such nutritional ingredients are not prohibited in treatment of other diseases."

The complaint also alleged that "conventional therapy (surgery, irradiation and chemotherapy) is ineffective to alleviate or cure cancer," the patients had rejected such therapy and chose instead to be treated with nontoxic food ingredients including Laetrile. The substance is not a drug, the complaint alleged.

In his April 28 ruling against the request for review of the case by a three-judge court, Judge Turrentine held that the complaint failed to state a "substantial federal constitutional quesion. The statute and regulation (banning Laetrile) are a rational means for achieving a legitimate state purpose—protecting the public health."

To which Attorney Kell responds, "That is to say, the legislature protects public health by prohibiting 'alleviation or cure of cancer.'

"Judge Turrentine's decision further holds that no Supreme Court cases suggest an extension of the right of privacy 'to a physician-patient relationship.' Cited by the court in the same paragraph with this conclusion was the case of Roe vs. Wade in which the Supreme Court held that the right of privacy *does* extend to the physician-patient relationship. The U.S. Supreme Court further held, in that same decision, that '... the attending physician, in consultation with his patient, is free to determine, without regulation by the state, that in his medical judgement, the patient's pregnancy should be terminated. If that decision is reached, the judgment may be effectuated by an abortion free of interference by the state.'

"If the pregnant prostitute Jane Roe was entitled to claim the right of privacy, it seems clear that individuals who are only trying to save their lives may rely upon the same constitutional protection.

"Judge Turrentine also found that the statute and regulation do not unfairly discriminate against cancer patients because: 'Since cancer victims are particularly susceptible to the danger of using Laetrile to the exclusion of conventional cancer treatment, forbidding prescription to *only* cancer victims is reasonable and rationally related to the object of the legislation.'

"Cancer victims reading this," continued Mr. Kell, "probably will

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War Against Purveyors of B-17 Heats Up

"Goddamned Quackery!" That's what Helene Brown, president of the California wing of the ACS, calls the anticancer substance "Laetrile," also known as Vitamin B-17 (recognized as such in McGraw Hill's authoritative *Nutrition Almanac*), "amygdalin" and, most commonly, "the stuff you get from apricot pits."

The "war" against the purveyors of Laetrile has heated up in recent months, with doctors who have dared use the substance suffering revocation of licenses and legal action, with verified FDA entrapment schemes (mailing the stuff to advocates and then arresting them), even with the spiriting away of apricot kernels from the counters of health-food stores.

Meanwhile, over the border in Mexico, Andrew McNaughton, who once sought investigational drug status for Laetrile, is sitting tight, watching some 20,000 Americans flood into the Tijuana Laetrile clinics each year in pursuit of cancer cure or control. Mr. McNaughton was imaginatively profiled in the Canadian magazine *Maclean's* (Jan. 12, 1976) by one Marci McDonald. The piece is clearly a vicious character assassination, a classic example of using information selectively to portray a subject against whom the author nurtures an obvious *a priori* bias in the worst possible light. McDonald, moreover, makes no serious effort whatever to examine the data that suggest that Laetrile is perhaps at least more useful than, say, radiation in extending the lives of cancer victims while also improving the quality of remaining life. That data—along with a new look at McNaughton and the Laetrile clinics—is, tentatively, the subject of my next *Newsletter*.

— DAVID RORVIK
Alicia Patterson Foundation
535 5th Ave., New York

be glad to know that even though they lose their lives when Laetrile is suppressed, the act of suppression was not unreasonable or irrational in the eyes of this court."

Three previous Laetrile cases – cited by the judge as "adverse" to the plaintiffs, held that Laetrile is a "food additive not cleared by the Fraudulent Drug Administration for use as such," and found by the court to be "dangerous" because rats were induced to die by force-feeding them with a soup made from defatted apricot kernels and water allowed to stand long enough to activate the cyanide before ingestion.

"Under FDA regulations, Laetrile is a nonessential food ingredient regulated by 21CFR 125.2-(b) 5, 'food' under Health and Safety Code Section 26012," continued the attorney. "Hence the move to have it declared a 'food additive' under which FDA can regulate it as a drug.

"The decision (of Judge Turrentine) concluded that the court believes prior decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court 'preclude any possible relief for the plaintiffs' because 'the District Courts have no role to play in determining whether a new *drug* should or should not be approved.' This conclusion unfortunately overlooks the allegations of the complaint that Laetrile is in fact a 'food' and not a 'drug.'

"This is not the end of the fight by any means, but it is not likely this expensive litigation can be carried on indefinitely without financial support. We have indeed come to a critical point in the history of Laetrile litigation, and unfortunately Dr. Privitera no longer is in a position to finance the fight that rightfully ought to be supported by everyone."

FDA Asked to Okay B-17 Importation

California Congressman Leo J. Ryan, South San Francisco, has asked the Food and Drug Administration to authorize importation of a year's supply of vitamins and minerals – including Laetrile (B-17) – from Germany.

FDA Associate Commissioner for Compliance Sam D. Fine has discussed the FDA position on Laetrile with the Congressman's aide who explained that the material from Germany consists of products prescribed by Hans Nieper, M.D., of Hannover.

About the same time, Mr. Fine was considering a request by Attorney Steve Tornay to release a shipment of amygdalin from Germany, destined for a firm in Mexico. The lawyer said he was told by a West Coast FDAer that "only Mr. Fine could issue a letter to Customs releasing the lot in question."

The June 7 issue of *Chemical News* said "There is apparently a movement underway to short-circuit FDA's attack on such cancer drugs as Laetrile-amygdalin. Freedom-of-choice-in-the-treatment-of-cancer bills are being pushed in the California legislature, and there are rumblings about a possible push for legislation in the U.S. Congress."

'If Safe, It Should Be Available'

NHF for Bill to Erase FDA Efficacy Authority

In the belief the individual should have the right to determine the choice of therapy – so long as it is safe – the Executive Committee of the National Health Federation at its June 24 meeting voted unanimously to support a bill which would eliminate the government's authority to determine whether a drug is "effective."

Known as the Medical Freedom of Choice Act, H.R. 12573 was introduced in the House in April by Congressman Steve Symms of Idaho, who says the 1962 amendment giving the Food and Drug Administration authority to withhold use of drugs until proven effective, "sounds nice, but the patient has been the loser because the FDA has suppressed the innovation and marketing of *all* drugs, not just ineffective drugs.

"Small drug companies have been forced out of the market by the heavy costs and burdensome paperwork required by FDA pursuant to the 1962 amendments. Researchers and doctors who espouse new forms of treatment – such as Laetrile for cancer – find themselves up against a formidable opponent in trying to win approval for such treatment."

The Executive Committee expressed the view that "the efficacy clause is used to hold back approval of harmless modalities which people should have the right to use, if they choose, in consultation with their doctor. It goes against the precepts of a free society that a government bureau should have the power to deny people safe medication, simply because Washington says it is ineffective."

Dr. Henry Turkel, Detroit medical doctor who specializes in glandular therapy for mongolism, would like to see the efficacy provision removed, because on the basis of personal experience, he too believes the authority has been abused.

DR. HOFFER'S VIEW

Another M.D. – internationally known for his work in treatment of mental disorders – Dr. Abram Hoffer of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – shares this view, as noted in a 1974 conversation with Jay Patrick (*NHF Bulletin* 4/74):

"I believe the FDA has a valid ruling in insisting that all drugs must be thoroughly tested as to possible toxicity before use. I do not believe FDA should have the power to rule on the efficacy of a drug. The Food and Drug Administration does not realize, for in-

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Midwest NHF 'Mini-conventions' Slated

Two Midwest "mini conventions" are scheduled this month and next, according to Convention Manager Carole Smith. The Kansas City NHF chapter will sponsor a convention Sept. 19 in the Plaza Inn, 46th and Main Sts., Kansas City, Mo. Beulah Scheilz, president, 533 Hardesty, Kansas City, (telephone 816-231-8237), may be contacted for information. Speakers at the Kansas City convention will include Ciro Rustici, D.C.; Walter J. Hodson, N.D., D.D.; Frederick J. Doughty-Beck, D.C.; and James F. Holleman, D.O. Two hours of questions and answers are scheduled by Drs. Doughty-Beck and Hodson.

A convention will be held Oct. 23 in the Midway Motor Lodge, 780 Packer Dr., Green Bay, Wis. NHF Board Member Terry Lemerond, Bay Natural Foods, 722 Main St., Green Bay (telephone 414-437-4750) is in charge of arrangements.

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stance, that most of the major breakthroughs in medicine have really come in an accidental way. This certainly is true of the discovery of penicillin, among many other major developments in the medical field.

"Thus, the small country doctor, working in his own way, may find a highly-effective use for some drug that can solve a major medical problem – but only if the drug is available to him. If FDA agrees the drug presents no toxic hazard, yet will not permit its use because efficacy has not been fully demonstrated, this obscure but ingenious doctor never will have a chance to make discoveries which can be major factors in the course of medicine.

"I do not feel that any group of physicians, no matter how intelligent, by themselves can decide whether or not a drug works. Such men cannot do it, and the result is they will make decisions generally in disagreement with the large body of physicians who have had direct experience with the compounds. We should expect only one determination by such a regulatory agency: Is the drug toxic, and how toxic is it? Even then I might want to use it. If I have a person with cancer and a toxic drug that will help him more than it will harm him, I will use it.

"The FDA has many useful functions, and I do wish it would perform them. Right now, it seems that it should concern itself with the real medical problems that exist. With drugs, FDA should stick to evaluation of relative toxicity. It should not try to do the doctor's job of determining efficacy."

Congressman Symms is seeking cosponsors for H.R. 12573, and citizens who believe the bill is sound are invited to urge their congressmen to support it.

More Laetrile Tests at Sloan-Kettering

Cincinnati Enquirer Story Updates 'Raging Controversy'

Is cancer a vitamin deficiency disease?

Scurvy was, and it was controlled by Vitamin C. Pellagra was, and it was controlled by vitamins. Pernicious anemia was, and it, too, was controlled by vitamins. What all these diseases have in common is that they are chronic metabolic diseases.

"And so is cancer," a well known Ohio physician said in an exclusive interview in his office located near Cincinnati. Today he is treating more than 200 patients with vitamin therapy which includes controversial Laetrile. Laetrile is the brand name to describe the extracted, crystallized freeze-dried form of the chemical, amygdalin, from apricot kernels. He claims, after 2½ years of this kind of therapy, to have positive results.

"I'm not interested in laboratory statistics. I am interested in keeping my patients well. I not only give them multiple vitamins and enzymes, but they must, for the first four months, go on a strict diet, totally vegetarian. Later we move into more items, including allowing fish, turkey and chicken. But at first they can eat only what is raw and natural."

This doctor, who asked not to be identified because of the controversy surrounding use of Laetrile as one of the supplements he uses, agreed, however, to a lengthy discussion of cancer as a metabolic deficiency disease.

He emphasized over and over that neither he, nor anyone, has a cure for cancer. Many physicians believe now, however, that it might be managed or controlled by making the body's own defenses work to attack cancer cells.

"The disease then," he said, "can be controlled by giving the patient vitamins and enzymes much in the same manner as insulin is given to control diabetes."

Yet so hot and emotional is the issue of the use of Laetrile as part

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This story appeared in a two-part series June 1 and 2 in the Cincinnati Enquirer. *Researched and written by Reporter Alice Hornbaker, it is a concise, objective summary of the controversy which has surrounded Laetrile for more than two decades. Part One was introduced with these comments: "The controversy over Laetrile rages. While no one is claiming it's an absolute cure for cancer, there is a growing body of researchers and physicians who claim it is an effective therapy . . . There is also a body of experts who claim it's absolutely worthless."*

of vitamin therapy that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in its own bulletin, has decreed that "Laetrile may not be shipped within the United States for use on humans."

This reporter was told by the FDA, and a spokesperson at the National Cancer Institute, as well as by some physicians, that *The Enquirer* was "doing the public a real disservice in writing this two-part series." Why? They suggested stories of this nature might encourage those who now have cancer to opt for vitamin therapy instead of the life-saving orthodox therapies now available. These include operations, radiation and chemotherapy. "They'll postpone or ignore seeking current methods of treatment and might sacrifice their lives."

"This is not so," the doctor who is treating cancer as a chronic metabolic disease said. He urged all persons who suspect they have cancer to get to their doctor immediately for diagnosis. They should never attempt to treat themselves. Then, he added, if a patient is told he has cancer, it should be up to him to decide what therapy to elect.

Today, according to leading proponents of this vitamin deficiency theory, there are more than 50,000 cancer patients who elected to go this route. Many are terminal patients who first tried conventional medical therapies — unsuccessfully. In a last-ditch effort they've turned to Laetrile and the vitamin theory — an 11th-hour stand.

"One of the problems," the doctor said, "is treating terminal patients who either had conventional therapies or no treatment at all for a long period of time. Their cancer has become advanced, destroying vital organs. Thus the primary defenses against the disease are lost. Then all the doses of vitamins and enzymes in the world can't help. This vitamin therapy is only a backup support. The body's primary defenses must be working to fight, to utilize the supplementary nutrition."

WANT IT LEGALIZED

Proponents of Laetrile have as their national spokesman the Committee for Freedom of Choice in Cancer Therapy, Inc., organized by Robert Bradford, a Stanford University physicist, now under indictment by a federal grand jury. The Committee has taken on the FDA. Today the Committee claims to have in its files the names of 800 physicians around the country who are treating patients with vitamin therapy and Laetrile. One of their spokesmen, Michael L. Culbert, interviewed by telephone from Fort Worth, Texas, while on a lecture tour for Laetrile, said: "Only 60-70 physicians will admit to using this alternative cancer therapy because of the harassment they get both from the FDA and their own medical colleagues.

"We no longer seek FDA approval of Laetrile. The force of the grass roots movement to make the government recognize Laetrile is growing. Now we want to make it legally available to the medical community, not through black markets, and offer it as an alternative therapy."

Disputing the claim of Laetrile proponents who claim it is both safe *and* effective is Gordon Bourgin, Consumer Affairs Officer, Cincinnati District, FDA. He said: "Personally I think it is a fake, and a tragedy. How can it be otherwise? Time and again they've been asked to come forward with sound, scientific evidence of its worth. They haven't. If and when they do, of course they'll get a fair hearing. All of us have lived with cancer. It's touched our lives, personally, or those of someone in our families. Don't you think we'd grasp at anything that holds out hope for a control or cure? They just don't have it."

HE DISAGREES

Glen L. Rutherford of Conway Springs, Kan., disagreed.

"I was diagnosed as having invasive carcinoma of the lower intestinal tract on December 3, 1971. The diagnosis was made on the basis of a biopsy at Wichita Clinic in Wichita," he said in a telephone interview.

For eight months he was treated by his own local doctor, "getting a little better and a little worse. By the time I went to the Wichita Clinic the growth filled the intestinal tract. I decided then to visit a cancer clinic in Mexico, headed by Dr. Ernesto Contreras (now under indictment by a federal grand jury), who gave me the same diagnosis. (The Contreras Clinic uses Laetrile as part of its cancer therapy. Laetrile is legal in Mexico").

From December 21 to January 8 the Tijuana clinic treated Mr. Rutherford.

"After I left there and returned home I was examined in 1972 by doctors, every last Saturday of every month from January through August. My doctor told me if he didn't have the medical reports he would say I never had cancer. All he could find was a small scar on the intestinal wall about the size of the nail on your little finger."

Unable to get his Laetrile, Rutherford petitioned the U.S. District Court asking dispensation to obtain a continuing supply of Laetrile without FDA interference. Judge Luther Bohanon of Oklahoma City ruled in his favor.

This same judge in December of 1975 entered an order removing any criminal liability from physicians administering Laetrile to Ernest Ray, a cancer patient at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Dr. Michael Grossman testified that Mr. Ray's cancer had reached the liver, lung, bone marrow and "perhaps other places that we're not aware of." James J. Kilpatrick, the newspaper columnist, reported this incident.

Kilpatrick quoted Grossman: "I think the drug is essentially worthless, but it has become such an obsession with Mr. Ray that I think he will derive great psychological benefits from its use. I think it will help him mainly because he would believe it is helping him. As far as anything I can find, it should not harm him."

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'TIED IN NINTH'

A knowledgeable source at the Sloan-Kettering Institute (SKI) for Cancer Research in New York City, contacted by telephone, believes "the Laetrile ball game is tied in the ninth inning. Soon that tie will be broken, once and for all. A new 'blind test' (researchers won't know which mice get the Laetrile and which do not) has been ordered at SKI, using Laetrile on specially-bred mice. The results of those tests, which should start this month, may be known in about three months."

Laetrile, banned from interstate commerce by the Food and Drug Administration, is found naturally in about 1,200 plants, fruits and vegetable seeds, and is the normal component of the seeds in virtually every fruit in the Northern Hemisphere, except citrus.

Biochemist Ernst T. Krebs, Jr., San Francisco, and his collaborators, gave the general term "nitriloside" and/or "Vitamin B-17" to this class of substances, which in the main are sugar compounds consisting of one, two or more molecules of glucose, one of benzaldehyde and one of cyanide.

Why Sloan-Kettering's involvement in the Laetrile controversy? *Medical World News* magazine, in a story dated October 6, 1975, explained it this way: "The latest maneuver in the relentless guerilla war between the proponents and opponents of Laetrile was improbable but undeniable," it said. "Raw laboratory data compiled from Laetrile studies by a venerable researcher at SKI were leaked to the press by a California based lobby for the putative anticancer compound."

The Committee for Freedom of Choice in Cancer Therapy, Inc., charged Sloan-Kettering "with suppressing a series of laboratory studies by its oldest practicing scientist, octogenarian chemist Kanematsu Sugiura – studies that 'reveal Laetrile's effectiveness.'"

NEW TESTS SET

Since those notes of Sugiura's were sent by some unknown person to the Committee and revealed, other tests were conducted at SKI, according to the SKI spokesperson, and they did not back up Sugiura's original findings. However, the spokesperson said, this year Dr. Franz A. Schmid, longtime associate of Dr. Sugiura's and his son-in-law, again did more tests with Sugiura "on 31 mice, with both Schmid and Sugiura obtaining positive results. Dr. Sugiura said so but Dr. Schmid demurred and reserved judgment. Now this new blind test will decide."

According to the spokesperson, who wished to remain anonymous, the new Laetrile test will include as part of its research team Dr. Sugiura and veteran researcher Dr. Daniel S. Martin of Catholic Center in Queens, N.Y., who has bred a special kind of mice for these experiments.

When asked if Dr. Martin is the same surgeon quoted in the *Medical World News* story as saying, "I flatfootedly and categorically tell you Laetrile is without activity against spontaneous tumors in mice – period," the spokesperson said it is.

"After these new tests are evaluated, the researchers will announce results," the spokesperson said.

Dr. Sugiura was asked by *Medical World News* his opinion and he replied, "Most of the time, when other people repeat my experiments, they confirm them – especially in the chemotherapy of a cancer. I don't remember ever doing experiments that were later not confirmed. It is still my belief that amygdalin (Laetrile) cures metastases (of cancer)."

SKI's new "blind" test will confirm or refute this belief, the spokesperson said. "This all began some four years ago. Now SKI is committed to 'breaking the tie' involved in this Laetrile research. That's where it stands. There is no date for publishing all the data; but when it is put together, finally, it will be."

'COME FORWARD'

Then he added, "You could perform a real service to the people if you could somehow convince Laetrile proponents to come up with a real list of scientific data, now, about those alleged 50,000 patients who have their cancer under control because they are treating it as a vitamin deficiency disease.

"There is a lot of rhetoric and hot air on both sides, now we need hard facts. If Laetrile doctors, like the one in Ohio, have documented proof, they should have it published – *now*. If 'the establishment' medical journals won't print it, then they should self-publish it. They should let the public know what they have, what can be substantiated, and they should do it now."

The Ohio doctor referred to replied: "I have my records of course, I treat a vitamin deficiency: make the body build its own defenses to fight off disease. I checked with the Ohio State Medical Association after I did an exhaustive eight-month study of the theory that cancer is a vitamin-deficiency disease, and they told me Laetrile is illegal. I asked them to read the statute that says it is. They repeated it is illegal. I asked what law made it so. Finally they said it was 'not approved.' That's quite a different thing, isn't it?"

So this doctor is willing to be counted among those physicians in this country who now feel cancer is a chronic metabolic disease, like scurvy, pellagra and pernicious anemia.

He said there are now too many world-famous cancer specialists who have given multiple papers to International Cancer Congresses who say this is the way to go in research, study and therapy. "They are among the finest scientists in the world. Why should they be disbelieved?"

The public now awaits the outcome of the "extra-inning Laetrile ball game," as the SKI spokesperson called the new findings, adding: "The FDA has gone out on a limb so much on this thing that even if it shows it has a grain of

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truth in it, it would be tremendously embarrassing; it could cause the FDA to unravel. They are so sensitive to scandal that they are practically paralyzed right now."

CONCLUSIONS

- There are still open minds about cancer as perhaps being a vitamin deficiency disease. On March 4, 1976, Don Kirkman, a Scripps-Howard science writer, in a story datelined Washington, reported that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) says within a year it will try to prevent a number of major cancers with doses of synthetic Vitamin A.
- There are committed people on both sides of the Laetrile issue and the vitamin-deficiency theory of cancer.
- FDA has concentrated on enforcing the law against use of unapproved drugs, but to date has made no clear effort to test Laetrile in order to support its enforcement against it.
- Laetrile advocates no longer seek FDA approval and hope now for a public mandate to force the government's hand.
- An aide to Sen. Hubert Humphrey who called the FDA in Washington to see if they were planning, at Humphrey's suggestion, to schedule new hearings on the Laetrile issue, was told by the FDA that hearings "were not in the foreseeable future." The Freedom of Choice in Cancer Therapy Committee, Inc., has among its supporters some members of the John Birch Society, thus making what is basically a medical issue often a political one.
- Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research will conduct a blind test using Laetrile, and when results are known, may decide Laetrile's worth, pro or con.

In Utah: 'Miracle of the Year'

Initiative Banning Mandatory Fluoridation Goes to Voters

Considered "impossible" when the drive for signatures started, antifluoridation forces in Utah nevertheless obtained in excess of the 48,000 signers needed to qualify an initiative to prevent the Utah Board of Health from mandating fluoridation statewide.

Led by Austin Belnap, volunteers scoured city and countryside and in *less than four weeks* procured the signatures of 60,000 qualified voters (actually the total was estimated at between 70,000 and 80,000 but the secretary of state stopped checking at 60,000, since only 48,000 were required to qualify).

Elated over the achievement — and among those who had believed it couldn't be done in such a short period — is NHF Legislative Advocate Clinton R. Miller who termed it "the miracle of the year! Virtually no one thought it could be done!"

Unlike the initiatives in Washington and Oregon which would outlaw fluoridation, the Utah initiative, if approved at the polls in November, would retain the status quo, permitting fluoridation of a community's water system only if approved by a majority vote within the affected city or town.

Utah has the distinction of being the "least fluoridated of any state in the Union."

Antifluoridation Petitions Are Filed in Washington, Oregon

Friday, July 2 was a red-letter day in Washington and Oregon for National Health Federation workers and associates who have been "beating the bushes" for several months to obtain sufficient signatures to qualify for the November ballot initiative petitions to outlaw use of fluoride in drinking water.

Carolyn Suddeth and associates drove to Olympia to file with the secretary of state petitions bearing the names of an estimated 130,000 voters. Approximately 118,000 were needed to qualify for the ballot. Mrs. Suddeth was surprised — and elated. "Two weeks before deadline I wouldn't have given two cents for our chances of qualifying," she said. "We had only about 90,000. Then after Dr. Yiamouyiannis came here briefly, new leadership came forth, and our forces really rallied. There was a great spiritual outpouring, too, and the boost that was needed suddenly was there. One man, 84, obtained 1,000 signatures within the two-week period. Those people were beautiful." She credited Millard Larson of Seattle with "turning the tide," and indicated he probably will spearhead the campaign preceding the election.

Demaris L. Yates, chairman of the Oregon Antifluoridation Council, filed with the secretary of state in Salem petitions containing the names of approximately 54,000 voters. A total of 46,213 bonafide electors are required to qualify for the Oregon ballot.

Also in Salem to witness the filing was NHF Science Director John A. Yiamouyiannis, Ph.D., who worked in Oregon during the closing weeks of that petition-signing campaign.

The secretary of state's staff in each state will check signatures to determine if the required number of eligible voters have signed the petitions. (Ed. Note: Before press time, *The Bulletin* was advised that the initiatives in each state have qualified for the ballot).

Dr. Yiamouyiannis paid tribute to the hundreds who entered into the petition drive "with enthusiasm, and what was more important — persistence. The leadership and workers in each of these northwest states are a dedicated group of citizens loyal to the concept of freedom of choice."

THE WELCOME MAT'S OUT TO THESE NEW LIFE AND PERPETUAL MEMBERS

PERPETUAL

DOROTHY H. GRANDY
Glen Ellyn, Ill.

IRMA M. NAGLE
Belleville, Ill.

BETTY and CLARENCE STOUFFER
Waddam's Grove, Ill.

MRS. HUBERT HAWSON
Bronxville, N.Y.

HANS DICKMAN
Newport Beach, Calif.

SYLVIA NICHOLSON
Beverly Hills, Calif.

LIFE

W. S. WESTCOTT
St. Louis, Mo.

MRS. BENJAMIN P. HAMILTON
Waterboro, Me.

MRS. SYLVIA McPHERSON
Chico, Calif.

CLAUDINE MORICAL
Kansas City, Mo.

J. B. CARRIERRE
Empire, Minn.

BETTYE B. STILL
Seattle, Wash.

DAVID S. MILLER
Salt Lake City, Utah

W. V. MALCOM, JR., D.C.
Arcadia, Calif.

KATHRYN BARNES GUM
Mt. View, Calif.

MRS. E. VIRGINIA KEMPER
Chicago, Ill.

KAREN WALKER and JIM EHMKE
Brown Deer, Wis.

LOUELLA KUNDERT
Chicago, Ill.

EDWARD S. TABEAU
Oshkosh, Wis.

MRS. MARY SMEDLEY
Port Angeles, Wash.

HARRY GOBLE, N.D.
Crown Point, Ind.

DR. ELIZABETH Z. KLEINMAN
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

SUSANNE FORTIER
Chicago, Ill.

MR. and MRS. VICTOR MOLINARI
Montebello, Calif.

MINNIE O. BAILY
Arcadia, Calif.

LEONA P. MARKS
Sepulveda, Calif.

ARLENE WHITESIDE
Sepulveda, Calif.

JOHN and LORENA McDEVITT
Burbank, Calif.

NILES C. BROWN
No. Hollywood, Calif.

HELENA A. YOUNG
El Monte, Calif.

LUCILLE K. DeVRIES
Alhambra, Calif.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT LYONS
Lakeside, Calif.

MRS. DON ASHER
San Diego, Calif.

MILDRED H. SCHELLENBERG
Laguna Hills, Calif.

EVELYN NEUDORFFER
Santa Ana, Calif.

SELMA AVERHEIMER
Reedley, Calif.

BELLE J. JAMES
Rogue River, Ore.

S. G. EVETTS
Glendale, Calif.

MR. and MRS. CARL SANTESSON
Sherwood, Ore.

WALNUT ACRES
Penns Creek, Pa.

VIRGINIA R. MOORE
Long Beach, Calif.

MRS. R. P. GRIOT
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Activists Hail Spraying Halt National Forests

Although denied by the Forest Service, Consumer Activist Ida Honorof believes the "climate of public opinion" is responsible for the decision by the Angeles Forest Service to halt spraying of native brush as of late June.

News of suspension of spraying was relayed to Ms. Honorof during an interview with Robert Reese, in charge of Spray Project Angeles. Between June 12-25, helicopter crews of Shasta Ag, Porterville, Calif., dumped 4,000 pounds of 2,4-D ("Agent Orange" herbicides) over 964 acres in the Saugus region.

"Mr. Reese said he called off the spraying because of weather conditions which caused the brush to 'harden off,'" said Ms. Honorof. "He said crews were able to work only a couple of hours a day because the temperature had to be below 80 degrees, humidity could not be more than 30%, with wind velocity not exceeding 5 mph. He said it is a suspension, and that spraying will be renewed in the spring.

"It is our belief, however, that the massive protests mounted last spring have had an effect on Forest Service leadership, and we call it a victory." She pointed out that similar weather conditions have prevailed other years without a halt.

In a news release issued by the Committee Against Home Front Chemical Warfare, the Forest Service Environmental Impact Report is quoted as saying that use of 2,3-D, 2,4-DP, and 2,4,5-T causes "'brush to become even more flammable.' Fires presently raging in our national forests release the deadly contaminant dioxin (most virulent, toxic, birth-deforming chemical known to man), into the atmosphere, endangering not only the natural environment, but human life. These herbicide/defoliants were banned from use by the military after it was learned in Vietnam that they caused birth deformities, cancer, and genetic damage. They must never again be used in the United States."

Protest leaders included Ms. Honorof, Dr. Richard Vogel and Professor Craig Peterson of Cal State University of Los Angeles; Dr. Ruth Harmer of California Polytechnical College, Pomona; Lisa Harmer, Dr. Granville Knight, NHF President Charles I. Crecelius, Laura Tallian of People's Lobby, and Lorraine Rosenthal of Cancer Control Society. Ms. Honorof fired off protest letters not only to the Forest Service management, but to Senators Alan Cranston, Gaylord Nelson, John Tunney, William Proxmire, and EPA Administrator Russell Train, and State Senator Anthony Beilenson, all of whom responded in varying degrees to her appeal to use their influence to stop the spraying.

NHF Faithful Finance Multilith Press

It took 21 years, but the National Health Federation now has a press! The faithful mimeograph is being replaced with a Multilith 1250 press which will give fast, quality work, particularly "long-run" mailings.

Suggested by Board Chairman Kurt Donsbach, and with the hearty concurrence of the Executive Committee, an appeal for funds was made during the San Diego convention in mid-May. The inimitable Betty Lee Morales did the honors, and believe it or not — approximately $2,000 was raised on the spot for the press and a platemaker, with donors including Board Member Dorothy B. Hart who volunteered her services for more than a year and wrote out a check of $100.

It didn't take Production Manager Elias Rodriguez long to clean, adjust and repaint the unit, and the first job off — sharp and black —was the fluoridation/cancer graph — and letter.

Hoffman 'Save U.S.' Float Wins Again!

Within two weeks after winning first place in the Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, the Bob Hoffman "Declaration of Health" float was awarded grand prize in Baltimore's annual three-mile Preakness Race parade. Accepting the 2½-foot trophy was Trudy Engel, public relations consultant to Mr. Hoffman's York Bar-Bell Company.

Another thrill for those associated with the float was the word to Ms. Engel from Grand Marshal Ed McMahon of the Jack Carson show that "you were sensational!"

To a bystander's query "Are you fascists? What does all this mean?" Mr. Hoffman explained: "We are not belligerent. We are trying to inspire a healthful attitude. The 'Save the United States Movement' is a health-alert. Members abide by the rules and adhere to such principles of wellbeing as proper exercise, better nutrition, rest and relaxation, no smoking, no alcoholic beverages, no illicit drugs, no tea or coffee, and natural foods. Above all, maintain a tranquil mind."

INSURANCE FIRM NOT INTERESTED

With private carriers unwilling to insure Parke Davis & Co. against possible damage claims, the massive "swine flu" vaccination program may not materialize, said Director Dr. Delano Meriwether. Parke Davis was scheduled to supply half the total vaccine for the $135-millon project.

The firm has asked government subsidy to replace the coverage, and the Ford Administration in mid-June sent draft proposals to Congress, requesting approval.

THIS IS THE NATIONAL HEALTH FEDERATION

The National Health Federation is America's largest, organized, noncommercial health consumer group. It is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1955. Its membership is comprised of men and women in all walks of life, belonging to a variety of religious faiths and political persuasions, and engaged in nearly every profession and trade.

Its members believe that health freedoms are inherently guaranteed to us as human beings, and our right to them as Americans is implied in the words, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Yet, frequently, these freedoms and rights have been and continue to be violated. Too often, as a result of the unopposed pressures from organized medicine, the chemical industry, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and others, laws and regulations have been imposed which better serve these special-interest groups than the public at large. We see and hear of new instances daily. To name a few: spiraling health-care costs, consumer exploitation by leading industries, excessive devitalization and adulteration of our foods, restriction of certain types of treatment, banning of certain health books from the mails, the harassment of those who advocate natural methods of healing and natural foods, the poisoning of our air, water and soil through greed and carelessness, and many other health-related issues.

The NHF opposes monopoly and compulsion in things related to health where the safety and welfare of others are not concerned. NHF does not oppose nor approve any specific healing profession or their methods, but it does oppose the efforts of one group to restrict the freedom of practice of qualified members of another profession, thus attempting to create a monopoly.

The public needs a strong voice, such as the NHF provides, to speak and act in their behalf in these health-related matters. Legislators need your support to balance the pressures exerted upon them by the special interests. The National Health Federation, through a special legal and legislative staff in Washington, keeps its members apprised of all health legislation, opposes inadequate or undemocratic health legislation, while supporting or drafting bills to protect the individual's health freedom.

Will you join us in this worthy effort?

ELECTED FEDERATION OFFICERS

Charles I. Crecelius — President and Executive Head of the Federation. Address: P.O Box 688, Monrovia, California 91016.

Betty Lee Morales — Secretary

Dorothy B. Hart — Vice-President

Kurt W. Donsbach — Chairman of the Board of Governors and Executive Assistant to the President. Address: P.O. Box 688, Monrovia, California 91016

V. Earl Irons — Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors

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Phone: (213) 358-1155

Don C. Matchan — Editor of **NHF Bulletin.**

Opinions expressed in The **Bulletin** are those of the writers of the articles and are not necessarily the opinion of the National Health Federation.

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Thank you!

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Every family in America should belong to the National Health Federation to —

1. Support the principle of freedom of choice and liberty in health matters.
2. Be a part of a strong and united consumer's voice in all health matters.
3. Work for beneficial and needed health legislation and, at the same time, oppose proposals which are detrimental to the health interests of the people or which do not provide for equality of recognition of all legally established health professions.
4. Support a united effort to reduce the cost of health care.
5. Oppose insults upon our ecology which have an impact on health
6. Oppose the use of chemical food additives which have not been proved absolutely safe or which are not needed.
7. Secure fair and impartial enforcement of food and drug laws and regulations.
8. Insist that all monies raised for health research and care be used exclusively for these purposes.
9. Compel all health fund-raising organizations to disclose in an annual report, the amount of funds collected and how the funds were expended.

THESE ARE THE THINGS THE NATIONAL HEALTH FEDERATION IS ORGANIZED TO DO — JOIN ITS RANKS AND TAKE PART IN THIS VITAL EFFORT ON BEHALF OF YOURSELF AND OF ALL AMERICA.

UPCOMING NHF CONVENTIONS

'MINI-CONVENTIONS'

Kansas City, Mo.—Green Bay, Wis.

(See Page 22)

Midwest Regional — Sept. 25-26
Holiday Inn O'Hare/Kennedy
5440 No. River Rd. — Rosemont

Northeast Regional — Nov. 13-14
Hotel Roosevelt — New York

HELP SAVE OUR HEALTH FREEDOMS