

DETROIT MEDICAL NEWS

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



FOR DOCTORS OF MEDICINE

Vol. LXVI, No. 24

August 4, 1975

Is Solzhenitsyn Paranoid, Or Is He Not?

By Reuven Bar-Levav, M.D.

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist, spoke recently in New York warning Americans of Soviet danger. Citing recent events in Portugal, India and Southeast Asia, Mr. Solzhenitsyn deplored what he described as the reluctance of people in the West to grasp the simple notion that the purpose of the Soviet Union and its far-flung Communist allies is "to destroy your society."

"Nikita Khrushchev came here and said: 'We're going to bury you.' Now the Communists have become more clever, now they say Détente."

According to Solzhenitsyn they really mean the same.

Solzhenitsyn mocked with much sarcasm the naivete of the American people and of the American government in believing that the Soviet Union is genuinely interested in peace:

"Your government is constantly being deceived by the Soviet Union which cheats about the size and number of its missiles and nuclear warheads. . . . Soon they will be twice as powerful as you, and then five times and ten times. And some day they will say to you: 'We are marching our troops into Western Europe, and if you act, we shall annihilate you.' And the troops will move, and you will not act."

Instead of American action, he speculated, some American theoretician would probably applaud the lack of action as a positive move.

"Is it ever possible to warn anyone of oncoming danger? How many witnesses have come to your country, how many waves of immigration, all warning you of the same experiences and the same dangers? Yet those proud skyscrapers still stand, and you go on believing that it will not happen here. Only when it happens to you will you know it is true."

Had any American, such as Senator Goldwater or George Wallace, said these words he would surely have been accused of being rabidly anti-Communist and paranoid. Coming from Solzhenitsyn, with his reputation for courage and moral rectitude, the words are taken seriously, as an expression of an honest man who perhaps possesses more wisdom than we do. Nobody has accused him, so far, of being paranoid.

Many of the bills proposed in the legislature to remedy the malpractice crisis have been passed or are just about ready to become law. The public, press and many in the medical profession seem to feel that the situation has been corrected and the crisis is over. Yet, a recent letter from the Michigan Department of Commerce announcing the rates of malpractice premiums for July and August indicates, when computed on a yearly basis, that they would range from approximately \$1,200 for Class I to \$8,000 for Class V. Although an improvement, it is still an unreasonable burden and has not basically altered the public climate in which physicians are fair game in the hunt for easy money by unscrupulous individuals.

The U.S. Postal Service is right now investigating the AMA to determine whether its Journal should lose its publication mailing rates since the AMA also has a political arm concerned with legislation affecting physicians and Medicare. If the decision goes against the AMA, the cost of mailing the Journal will almost double, and millions of dollars would be charged for back postage. According to a confidential AMA memorandum, made public by the *New York Times*, the Postal Service has already rejected such mailing rates for the Medical Society of the State of New York and has taken away such mailing privileges from the Medical Society in Mercer County, N.J. Wheth-

(Continued on page 9)

Editor's Page

Wait And See

The legislature of the State of Michigan has completed its current session. Among other actions, they have enacted a series of laws which are aimed at correcting the problems concerning "malpractice" in Michigan. It has, in general, enacted into law those suggestions forwarded to it by the physicians of Michigan. But have these new laws corrected the basic problems?



DR. TALLANT

The laws enacted have made "malpractice" insurance available, but what will be the cost? Will there be any reduction in the number of suits entered in the court docket? Has there been any limit to the size of the judgments which may be awarded? Other questions also await an answer. The purpose of the laws which have been enacted is to correct the injustices and inequities which have been the basis of the constantly increasing premiums and the marked reluctance of the commercial insurance carriers to even underwrite insurance at any premium.

The only real goal which has been realized is the availability of "malpractice" insurance to all physicians. I see nothing in the recently enacted laws which will lower the sky-rocketing premium rates. There has been, to date, too great an emphasis upon the proposition "now the malpractice situation has been solved." This statement, with repetition and repetition can lull the public and the members of the legislature into a dangerous state of complacency. Nothing could be more hazardous to the continued search for solutions to the entire problem.

The State Insurance Fund has issued premium rates under the newly enacted law. The Insurance Fund authorized by the House of Delegates of our Society will, I suspect, issue rates close to those adopted by the State Insurance Fund.

Some of the basic problems will be answered only by time. It is essential to have sensible malpractice insurance premiums as well as having availability. Cost is a definite factor. Elimination of "nuisance" suits is a factor. How can a young physician, or an older physician who has limited his practice, possibly pay the extremely high premiums now demanded; extremely high when compared with a few years ago?

The legislature, to the best of its ability, has enacted into law the suggestions offered them by the physicians of the State. We must wait and see the effects of the recently enacted laws before passing judgment upon their value in solving the "malpractice" problem.

Edward J. Tallant

IS SOLZHENITSYN PARANOID

(Continued from page 5)

er designed for such purposes or not, such tactics are obviously being used to scare the medical profession into lowering its voice and from engaging in educational activities on behalf of its professional interests.

This editor has for some time been wondering privately whether the social climate that allowed for the development of the malpractice situation and the passing of so many laws and regulations that affect physicians adversely is a coincidence or not. Some physicians, efficient but greedy and lacking in the humane qualities that have always turned physicians into healers, have contributed to the lowering of Medicine's status. And yet, is it possible, perhaps, that powerful political forces have been working in concert for years, behind the scenes, to create a situation in which the role of the physician will be so diminished, his prestige so lowered and his options to continue in private practice so minimized that a nationalized system of health care delivery will be a natural, and perhaps the only possible, consequence?

Unreasonably high malpractice insurance rates drive some physicians out of private practice or may force them to leave medicine altogether. The only remaining alternative is to become employees of hospitals or other institutions, a trend that would fit into this scenario. The energies of physicians are being sapped and the morale of the medical profession is slowly being eroded in an endless series of battles. Could they all be part of a Master Plan, a grand design, as devious and yet as clear as that claimed by Solzhenitsyn to be at the root of all Soviet tactics?

If Solzhenitsyn is not paranoid, perhaps even this editor will be saved from similar accusations.

ELECTROLYSIS DOROTHY STOFER

15 Years Experience
NEW SHORT WAVE METHOD
Inquiries Welcome
EL 7-2262

Medical Concourse Northland Center

ELECTROMYOGRAPHY

Northland Medical Bldg. — 20905 Greenfield

Phone 357-1590

"HOUSE CALL"

"House Call" the monthly Michigan State Medical Society television program on Channel 56 W.T.V.S. will air 1/2 hour earlier than usual during August and September.

On Wednesday, August 6th House Call will be seen at 7:00 p.m., on Channel 56, physician panelists answering questions phoned in by viewers will include Robert Woodward, M.D., Birmingham psychiatrist, Richard Gallucci, M.D., Dearborn family physician and Richard Gascoigne, M.D., Adrian surgeon.

The September edition of "House Call" will air on September 3, 1975, and will present Drs. Gerald O'Connor, Ann Arbor, Tom Berglund, Kalamazoo, and M.S.M.S. Past President John Coury, Port Huron, to answer viewers' questions. The program will again air at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator for the popular program is Ken Ford, Channel 2 newsman. More than 100 questions are normally phoned in during the 1/2 hour program.

Do You Know . . .

Dr. Lee B. Stevenson of the Editorial Board has been appointed to the AMA Section Council on Obstetrics and Gynecology to replace Dr. Stewart Fish.



NURSING HOME

8045 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48214

821-3525

— QUALITY NURSING CARE —

Nursing Homes . . .

BRIGHTON HOSPITAL FOR ALCOHOLISM, 12851 East Grand River Avenue, Brighton, Michigan. Expert medical care and nursing. Thorough indoctrination with Alcoholics Anonymous program if desired. Phone Brighton Academy 7-1211.

EAST GRAND NURSING HOME—130 East Grand Blvd., at Jefferson. Skilled Nursing Care; Accept Private and Medicaid Skilled and Basic Patients. Ms. Ernest S. Barton, Owner and Administrator. 824-8224.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING . . .

POSITION WANTED

INTERNIST BOARD ELIGIBLE—experienced, desires position to practice general medicine. Prefer north or east metropolitan area. Write Box 1951, Detroit Medical News, 1010 Antietam Road, Detroit, Michigan 48207. 24985

OB-GN—BOARD CERTIFIED, EXPERIENCED. Wishes association with group or partnership. Prefer metropolitan Detroit area. Reply Box 1952, Detroit Medical News, 1010 Antietam Road, Detroit, Michigan 48207. 24987

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST POSITION WANTED. Personable, mature, and love to work with people. Eager to learn. Experienced with business procedures. Please call after 5:30, 939-3438. 24984

BOARD CERTIFIED SURGEON with excellent background and experience desires to associate with another surgeon or group. Please contact Box #1948, Detroit Medical News, 1010 Antietam Road, Detroit, Michigan 48207. 24988

WANTED

WANTED—PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN or specialist or surgeon. St. Clair-Port Huron area. Join or share office with family/industrial physician in private practice. Fully equipped office. Excellent staff including P.A. to do more routine work. Semi-retired or less than full-time considered. Luxury apartment available. Finances open. 1-313-329-3555 or 329-3222. JG

FAMILY PRACTITIONER to share office and expenses with present gynecologist and ophthalmologist. Located in professional building. In rapid growing Pontiac area, on M-24 "Lake Orion Village." 3 dentists, and 2 M.D.s presently in bldg. Please call 693-1331 for information and appointment. 24965

OPHTHALMOLOGIST with interest mainly in surgery to join active eye practice in suburb north of Detroit. Write Box #1949, Detroit Medical News, 1010 Antietam Road, Detroit, Michigan 48207.

EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIANS—full and part time work available. Excellent wages and benefits. Please call Monroe, Mich. (313) 241-1700, ext. 212. 24968

PHYSICIAN—House Physician for medium size hospital in Detroit area responsible for emergency, inpatient and first aid room care, physicals, employee health clinic and pre-employment physicals. Excellent employment benefits, opportunity to have small practice with office space furnished. Forward curriculum vitae. Box #1950, Detroit Medical News, 1010 Antietam Road, Detroit, Michigan 48207.

HOUSE DOCTOR FOR NIGHT WORK EMERGENCY ROOM, experienced. Small hospital, good remuneration. Must have Michigan license. Call 584-1377. MP

SECRETARY RECEPTIONIST FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS. Insurance, dictaphone, PEG Board, Accounts Receivable. One girl office. Farmington. Top salary. 476-2591. G.F

WANTED

MEDICAL DIRECTOR—top corporate administrative position. Some travel.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR—clinical-administrative opening with Blue Chip non-automotive co.

ASST MEDICAL DIRECTOR—good future with fine co.

PLANT PHYSICIAN—part time West side.

OB-GYN—specialist for West suburban group.

INTERNIST—large group practice West.

PATHOLOGIST—full time for private lab.

E.R.—full time in excellent hospital facility.

PSYCHIATRY—Child Psych. Boards or eligible.

PSYCHIATRY—full time, in and out patient.

INTERNIST—Northwest group opportunity.

RADIOLOGY—join hospital based group.

PEDIATRICIAN—top pediatrics group, suburban.

PATHOLOGY—hospital group North of Detroit.

INTERNIST—East suburban group opportunity.

Contact Davis-Smith Medical Agency, 1130 First Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226. 961-4567. Confidential placement of Physicians since 1946.

INTERNIST OR GENERAL PRACTITIONER—to associate with busy practitioner; two well equipped offices on Detroit east side. Salary negotiable. Physician to work part-time, welcome. Contact K. L. Ramadas, M.D., 822-7552.

INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE, Detroit, Michigan area. M.D. licensed in State of Michigan. Full or part-time. Excellent opportunity for G.P. or Specialist. Good salary, hours and benefits. An equal opportunity employer. Address resume or inquiry to Box #1922, The Detroit Medical News, 1010 Antietam Road, Detroit, Michigan 48207. 24809

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS to join physicians group with active growing family practice. Salary open. Contact Louis Berman. 13534 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Phone 883-2818 or 883-2819. 23638

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PRACTICE EXPANDING? PAPERWORK OVERLOADS?—For extra help when you need it, just phone. 23 years medical transcribing-typing experience. 928-6687. 24917

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE. Bibliography searches, abstracting, indexing, editing and re-writing papers, libraries catalogued, proofreading, and related tasks. Will travel. Joan Cossairt, 2023 Medford, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 or call (313) 973-2492. 24982

MICHIGAN'S FIRST EXCLUSIVELY MEDICAL SECRETARIAL SERVICE, covering all medical specialties. All your dictation edited and proof read. All you do is dictate over any phone—no special dictating equipment necessary. Your medical reports and correspondence returned promptly for your signature. For further information please call 398-1417 or 399-3088.

TO SHARE

MD TO SHARE OFFICE SPACE—three rooms and lab., with one common reception room. Reasonable rent. Also two ultra violet lamps for sale. VE 7-3900. JT

FOR RENT

MEDICAL SUITES-FARMINGTON HILLS—Ultra modern building leasing to physicians, dentists and ancillary services. Tranquil brookside setting—yet conveniently close to expressway. Ramp walkways, automatic elevator, sound conditioning, individually controlled heating and air conditioning, doctor's lounge with sauna and exercise room. Rents from \$560 per month. Call Thompson-Brown 476-8700 ask for Jean Lanphar or Marie Goodspeed. 24969

FOR LEASE

FINISHED MEDICAL OFFICE—Orchard Hills Medical Center. 784 square feet. Will alter. 851-6655. WP