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**His Idea**  
Mrs. Brown (displaying new  
lamp-shade): "Isn't it perfectly  
lovely? And it cost only \$10."  
Mr. Brown (desperately): "If  
you wear that to church tomor-  
row, you go alone. There's a  
limit to everything, including  
hats."

**Local Chapter Of  
N.A.A.C.P. Mapping  
Plans For Action**

CHARLOTTE — The local  
chapter of the NAACP, in a re-  
cent meet at the Brevard Street  
Branch of the public library,  
mapped plans for a program and  
education welfare of the group in  
Charlotte.

**A.M.A. Being Tried  
As 'Medical Trust'  
For Discrimination  
Against Coops**

Washington, D. C. (CLNS)—  
The so-called medical trust is  
on trial in the United States  
District Court at last — defend-  
ing itself against the indict-  
ment of the government and the  
Department of Justice that it  
violated the anti-trust laws in  
seeking to crush and destroy a  
consumer group health organ-  
ization, Group Health Associa-  
tion, Inc., of Washington.

The American Medical Associa-  
tion, the Medical Society of the  
District of Columbia, the  
Washington Academy of Sur-  
gery, the Harris County (Tex-  
as) Medical Society and some 20  
doctors, prominent in national  
and local organized medical  
groups are standing before 12  
jurors—four of them salesmen,  
two of them corporation employ-  
ees, two housewives, a mail  
carrier and an engineer.

This is no ordinary trial. It  
is historic for many reasons,  
probably as important historically  
as is the fight over the  
lease-lend bill in Congress. It  
is the first time in our history  
that a legal attack of this kind  
has been made on the ramparts  
of organized medicine — organ-  
ized medicine which long has  
been recognized in political life  
as the most powerful group and  
most effective lobby in the  
country, more powerful than  
are the churches in a world  
where men are more concerned  
about the life of the body than  
they are about the life of the  
soul.

It is also an extraordinary  
trial, an extraordinary episode  
in our history, because even  
the most casual visitor to the  
courtroom must feel the heavy  
pull of "tradition" which hangs  
over judge and jurors and spec-  
tators alike. There is that tra-  
dition that the medical profes-  
sion is sacred and always right,  
that there is the holy of holies  
where no layman dare enter,  
that there is a peculiar society  
where always exists the virtues  
of faith, hope and charity. The  
spectator must ponder on how  
free 12 jurors can be from that  
tradition.

The American Medical Associa-  
tion has not overlooked the  
importance of that tradition.  
That group hired one of the  
highest priced and most skillful  
of criminal lawyers in Washing-  
ton. He has not overlooked that  
tradition. The legal question in-  
volved in this trial is whether

this organized group by black-  
list and threat and parge con-  
trolled the right to practice  
medicine in Washington. But  
the cross examining lawyer has  
devoted little time to that pre-  
cise legal question. He has done  
much to wave the flag of tra-  
dition.

"The standards of practice  
shall be guided by the principle  
of rendering service to human-  
ity — what you get for it is  
secondary," he shouted to the  
jurors as he told them of the  
A. M. A. precepts. And he  
added, "Group Health was out  
to destroy the standards of pri-  
vate medicine." Again, early  
he dragged in the word "herd"  
so that it would be applied to  
the members of Group Health.

About six years ago, employ-  
ees of the Home Owners Loan  
Corporation became worried over  
the terrific drain sickness  
was making on their pocket-  
books. With the help of the  
Corporation, which also was in-  
terested in maintaining the  
health of its workers, they or-  
ganized Group Health. They  
also got assistance from E. A.  
Filene's Good Will Fund. They  
sought the cooperation of the  
Washington medical profession  
in making their plans success-  
ful and for a time it seemed  
there would be no trouble.

Then, suddenly, all the furies  
were let loose. Doctors who  
had been friendly, became bit-  
terly opposed to the plan. Doc-  
tors who signed to serve Group  
Health were threatened and a  
number resigned and at least  
one frankly said his whole pro-  
fessional career was in jeopar-  
dy. It was apparent that the  
"blacklist" was adopted, a purge  
was ordered. Even a little  
medical association in Harris  
County, Texas, reached out to  
warn a Washington doctor who  
had lived in that county.  
Charges of all kinds were flung  
around Washington and in  
those days a whispering cam-  
paign floated through drawing  
rooms and cocktail rooms.  
Group Health was an insidious  
foe of the public, "a subver-  
sive group," "red," and "com-  
munist." Somehow Group  
Health survived and now is a  
growing, healthy organization.  
Eventually the Department of  
Justice indicted the doctors and  
their organizations.

THE other day a preacher in  
Michigan, who seldom scores un-  
der 100 on the golf course, made  
hole in one on successive days.  
Maybe he has been paying the  
preacher! Could be.

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