

Drug Epidemic

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If the people are not alerted to this danger, it can destroy our entire society as it has already begun to destroy some of our cities." He said that the 114 BMI publishers will run a concentrated campaign to spotlight the drug issue.

Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, the other BMI national co-chairman, and publisher of the **Washington, [D.C.] Informer**, explained that the black publishers group has made a priority commitment to making drug addiction a national issue, and launching a national war on drugs movement, in cooperation with the National Committee To Declare War On Drugs. "The black press can reach the black community, make the people aware of the addiction crisis and move them to action."

Introducing former N.J. Assemblyman George Richardson, founder and president of the National Committee To Declare War on Drugs, as the "Architect and spearhead of the national war on drugs movement" Dr. Rolark called Richardson "a living example of hope to everyone concerned about drug addiction. The war on drugs leader was a heroin addict as a young man who conquered his habit and became the only black member of the New Jersey State Legislature in 1962. He gave up his seat in the Legislature in 1972 in order to devote himself to organizing the National Committee to Declare War on Drugs.

"Because the Nixon admini-

nistration misled the American people into believing it had won a "victory over drugs", the vast majority of the nation, and its press, is still not aware that drug addiction has reached the highest level in our history," Richardson said. "Every American city, no matter how small or rural is vulnerable" he warned, "and if our children and our society is to be saved and revitalized, then the American people must come together in an informed and articulate coalition of concerned citizens to make the government move to find more effective ways to cure or control drug addiction." Richardson said.

The moving story of Richardson's life as a heroin addict, his painful victory over his habit, and the rationale and program of the National Committee to Declare War on Drugs is told in the book **JUNKIE, THE DEADLIEST COVER-UP!** by George Richardson and Ingrid Frank (Manor \$1.95) which will be in stores, in soft-cover, early next month. A portion of its proceeds support the War on Drugs Committee.

Drs. Rolark and Russell explained that as part of their group's campaign to launch the war on drugs movement in their communities, the BMI-affiliated newspapers will help to promote and distribute **JUNKIE**, which Senator Edward Brooke has called "an invaluable gift to the entire nation".

King Calls For Humane Society

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people that her husband had been the enemy of "racism, poverty, and war." Though most of his work had been for minorities in the United States, Mrs. King said his scope had been world-wide.

She said, "In order to make life better, each one of us must be honest, loving, and above all committed." She emphasized commitment as the important element for change. "Honest, moral commitment to non-violence were not just words but a way of life for my husband," she said.

Mrs. King gave her listeners a capsuled look at what the civil rights movement has done, what it is continuing to do, and its future direction. She stressed the fact that the Center for Social Change must become a visible and viable legacy for Dr. King's ongoing work.

At a press conference held earlier, Mrs. King was asked if she felt the Third Century Organization could work when

so many others had failed. She replied, "I think it is possible if the organization has a genuine commitment. In talking with the various members of the group, I feel they can make the organization a reality for the people of this community." She said further, "There must be a sensitive leadership, in order to know what the people want and need."

Of the Congressional investigation into her husband's assassination she said, "I'm hoping they will get to the bottom of it. I'm optimistic. There has not been an investigation until now. The American public and his family should know what happened." She said she was not bitter toward the government for just now starting the investigation, nor had she expected one. Why? "Because government agencies had been involved in watching my husband. So, how could the government or an agency

of it investigate itself," she explained. She said her optimism of the investigation was rooted in the fact that the Congressional committee had among its number, members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. King said her husband often told her, "that we must live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools." She said that it is happening now in this country and in other parts of the world. She said that this country would not survive without planning for a more humane society, "which means turning its priorities around."

Looking at the movement in retrospect, Mrs. King said, "through my husband's efforts whites as well as blacks were liberated by the movement, but as long as there were oppressed people anywhere, none of us were really free."

Chavis Seeks Release

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not know the defendants; although at the time of the trial he had testified that he knew them well.

Hall said that then Assistant District Attorney Jay Stroud, who prosecuted the case, coached him in his testimony. Hall explained how he identified the Wilmington 10 in court saying Stroud helped him and told him what to say.

"They would show me the pictures and tell me who this one was and like, ah, Jerry Jacobs, you know the one with the burns, you know the diseased face, like they said, I couldn't quite remember his name, you know, so they said, well you just say, well you call him scarface."

Hall testified at the trial that he was taught to make molotov cocktails, which are firebombs, by members of the Wilmington 10. His sworn statement of August, 1976, however, said Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agent William S. Walden taught him how to make molotov cocktails and "showed me what dynamite looks like."

Hall's statement gave the reason for his change of testimony as wanting to let the black people know the "truth" -- that Rev. Chavis was not guilty.

He said he lied initially so that the prosecutor would be lenient with him on cases against him which were pending at the time of the Wilmington 10 trial. Hall said that Assistant Professor Jay Stroud told him that he would get six months for his testimony but he served 4 years.

Hall said he was also afraid for the safety of his family at the time he testified because court and law enforcement officers told him Rev. Ben Chavis had someone to threaten his family.

Hall said in the statement that Prosecutor Stroud told him "the best way to get him (Chavis) is through the law. He said, because the law has so many quirks and turns in it." Stroud could not be reached for comment.

Chavis charged that former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell and Assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, both convicted Watergate criminals, framed the Wilmington 10 and other political activists through the U.S. Justice Department's COINTELPRO, a program which illegally disrupted the civil rights movement.

What will happen as a result of Hall's statement and Chavis' charges is uncertain. Rev. Irv Joyner, a staff member of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, plans to call on the U.S. Justice Department for prosecution of state and federal officials implicated by Hall's testimony.

Anne Mitchell, coordinator of the North Carolina Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression said, "We are now launching a massive campaign to demand the immediate release of the Wilmington 10 on reasonable bond." Ms. Mitchell said Howell's address is U.S. Federal Building, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

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Workers

Dissatisfied

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originally favored a plan that called for the county to pay an additional \$6 million or quarter of a million a year for the next 24 years, over what the county was already contributing to from the state plan. But in a recent report from County Finance Director, Ken Brennan, the board was told that instead of paying a quarter of a million dollars a year the county would be paying three quarters of a million more or about \$1.1 million dollars a year. The board was also told that there was around \$40 million dollars of unfunded liabilities in the state plan. Hall said these figures made the board reevaluate the situation.

But Hall said he felt the unfunded liability figures were totals of the other counties or cities who had long payment plans like the ones Forsyth County reviewed. He said he was told that over 75% of the county employees had signed up for the state plan. "It is no wonder they are unhappy."

In recent meetings, Commissioner Tandy was said to have been constantly asking, "How can 97 out of 100 counties join the state plan and Forsyth can't afford to?"

Hall said it was a matter of finding out the actual cost involved in synchronizing the state and local plan. He says no one really knows.