

AUG 13 1970 J

The Evening Bulletin

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, August 13, 1970

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Lead-Paint Poison Cases Quadruple Over Last Year

By GARY BROOTEN

Of The Bulletin Staff

Reported cases of lead-paint poisoning among Philadelphia children have more than quadrupled this year, it was disclosed today.

A spokesman for the Citywide Coalition Against Childhood Lead Poisoning said there have been 493 cases of excessive-lead levels in children's blood this year, compared with 124 for all of last year.

Mrs. Viola Sanders, secretary of the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization, one of the member groups in the coalition, spoke at a press conference at 451 N. 13th st.

Asks for Tate

The attacked Mayor Tate for "freezing" a \$600,000 City Council appropriation for expanded programs to combat lead-paint poisoning. Tate has ordered money held for a police contingency fund. "I just feel sick," Mrs. Sanders said, "to think that

after we persuaded Council to appropriate the money the mayor would do this. I just can't understand the man."

The Citywide Coalition filed suit against the city last month seeking to force the release of the \$600,000 and the release of another \$300,000 for gang control similarly frozen.

City Ordinance
Lead-paint poisoning results when children chew on flaking or cracking paint in homes. Since 1966, the city has had an ordinance banning the use of paint containing more than 1 percent lead in the interior of any living unit.

Mrs. Sanders said the city tries to enforce that ordinance, but "there has been nothing done really to get rid of paint off the walls in our homes."

Mrs. Sanders attributed the increase this year to better reporting. She said the problem was just as bad last year, and she believes this year's problem is even worse than the new figures show.

Ex-GI Asks State Democrats For Law to Control Military

By KITZI BURKHART
Of The Bulletin Staff

A former GI charged yesterday that dissidents in the armed services are put in jail or mental institutions and given dishonorable discharges.

The allegation was made by Leroy Conley, until two weeks ago a SP-4 at Fort Dix, in testimony before the state Democratic Party's platform committee as it wound up two days of hearings in the Bellevue-Stratford.

Conley asked the party to seek legislation to control the military, which he called repressive and irresponsible. He also urged outside probes of alleged racism in the armed services, charging that previous investigations have been conducted by the services and are invalid.

In addition, he asked that legal aid be provided to GI's, a code of GI rights be established, and charges of oppression be investigated.

Topics Vary

More than 20 speakers appeared, discussing women's rights, welfare rights, abortion rights and other topics.

Bertha M. Brown, president, Our Neighbors Civil Association, Inc., urged that a watchdog committee be set up to guard against "the medical profession's unnecessary spiraling cost to unsuspecting and uninformed patients."

She also called for high-speed lines to carry inner city residents to jobs in suburban industrial parks and for a crack-down on dope pushers.

John White, of the Black Political Forum, asked that the state earmark money for direct aid to children rather than to supplement teachers' salaries. He urged, too, that laws be enacted to prevent re-

strictive zoning in some suburbs which, he said, now prevent certain ethnic groups from acquiring adequate housing.

Transit Subsidy

He asked further for a transit subsidy to help inner city residents get to their suburban jobs at less cost than at present.

Frieda K. Brown, representing the Bucks County Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union, said that organization views the state's present abortion laws as unconstitutional because they are vague, deny women in lower economic groups the equal protection of the law guaranteed under the 14th amendment, and the constitutional right to decide when to have a child. She also said abortions now are freely available to the rich, but forbidden to the poor.

Judith L. Diaz, Democratic state committee woman from the 10th senatorial district, urged the state to ratify speedily any constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights to women.

Big Moment

"This was the next great movement in the next great national movement and the Democratic Party should be aware of it. Women voting in a bloc will be a powerful force to contend with," she said.

Pauline London, of the Welfare Rights Organization and the Philadelphia Coalition Against Lead Poisoning, asked the party to support a bill to eliminate lead poisoning throughout the state. She added that in this city alone 1,668 cases of lead poisoning in children have been reported.

She told the group that these figures are misleading because many hundreds of children are affected but their cases go undetected.

Council OKs Aid On Paint Poisoning

AUG 21 1970 (M)

City Council on Thursday passed a resolution authorizing the Model Cities administrator to seek \$600,000 in Federal funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to combat lead paint poisoning.

The resolution was passed three hours after it had been submitted by Mayor James H. J. Tate, who called the lead paint problem "a tragedy which must be eliminated."

Before the resolution was passed, the mayor came in for some stiff criticism from several councilmen for his failure in the past to release city funds to combat the lead paint problem.

Councilman David Cohen said he was "astounded that the mayor would affix his signature to this document after freezing \$600,000 this Council authorized to fight lead poisoning."

Cohen called on the mayor to release the funds immediately in addition to seeking the Federal funds.

The city would request a total of \$715,504 in additional funding from HUD. About \$600,000 of that would be for a lead paint poisoning project for children and \$115,500 for relocation of displaced per-

sons in the Model Cities project area.

In his message to City Council, the mayor said, "You may be assured of my utmost efforts to secure the Federal funds in the amount of \$600,000 that are needed to carry out this most vital program."

Two months ago, Council took \$1 million which the mayor had budgeted for a police contingency fund, and allocated \$600,000 for the battle against lead paint poisoning and \$400,000 to hire more gang workers.

Tate refused to go along with Council and restored the \$1 million to the police fund. The mayor said then he would attempt to seek Federal money for both projects.

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