

People's Doctor Murdered!



Richard Taft is shown here teaching another Detox worker how to use acupuncture. This is in the revolutionary tradition of a doctor using a new technique on himself before anyone else.

**...an unsuccessful attempt to
destroy the Lincoln Detox
drug program**



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People's Doctor Murdered!

On October 29, 1974 at 7:30 AM, Dr. Richard Taft was found dead in a storage closet in the back of the auditorium of Lincoln Detox. He was one of the doctors who worked in the Lincoln Detox drug program. We, his co-workers, believe that Richie was killed.

Richard was found lying on his side, with his long sleeve shirt and dungaree jacket buttoned at the cuff. An empty syringe was found along with a medical tourniquet and 7 empty glassine bags of the type that street heroin is sold in. However, there were no matches, no cooker or keys to the room. Both doors of the storage closet were found ajar. These doors were always kept locked. Richard's wallet and money were found on his body.

The coroner's office reported finding no needle marks and no heroin in his urine. However heroin was found in his tissues. Richard's body had a large bruise and indentation in the back of the head and scratches on his wrists. The cause of his death has not yet been determined.

The theory that he gave himself a fatal injection is proven false on several counts: Richard was not addicted to heroin or suicidal; if he had given himself an injection, he would not have had time to roll down his sleeves and button them. A fresh needle mark should have been very easily found. Richard was lying in an extremely unnatural position, which raised the possibility that his body had been placed in a container, like the trunk of a car, and then moved.

Two months prior to his death, Richard was shot at by unknown assailants. For the past couple of months Richard had been carrying a weapon for personal protection. As recently as a week prior to his death, he stated to one of our workers that he was in fear of his life and wanted to take a leave of absence.

On the day of his death, he was due to meet a high ranking Washington official about the funding of the Lincoln Detox Acupuncture Program. It must also be pointed out that the moment the people from Washington walked into Detox, a telephoned bomb threat was received at the hospital.

These circumstances lead us to believe that Richard met with some violence prior to his death, that he was shot up with heroin after death or just prior to dying, and that the injection was administered by parties unknown.

Specific Threats

On May 15, 1974, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) attacked Lincoln Detox. Richard made an attempt to prevent these people from starting a confrontation at the hospital. Following this incident NCLC wrote a leaflet in which they accused Richard of being a "finger-man" for Lincoln Detox. This leaflet was followed by threatening phone calls to Richard's home. It must be pointed out that NCLC has a history of attacking groups and individuals who try to help poor and working people. Almost immediately after his death, NCLC said on television that Richard was a "brainwashed zombie," a "CIA agent," and "a violent man...and it is not surprising that he met a violent death."

About a month before his death, Richard testified in behalf of a Lincoln Hospital worker, James Richardson. This case involved the killing of a transit policeman by another policeman. Richard's testimony exposed the fact that James Richardson was deeply influenced by drugs when they attempted to extract a confession. This resulted in police officers making intimidating gestures towards Richard in the courtroom.

All of these facts were printed in a statement issued by the workers at Lincoln Detox within a few days of the incident. Since then, no public report has ever been issued by the police or coroner's office concerning this bizarre occurrence, despite vehement claims by his family and co-workers that this was murder.

The most likely explanation of this incident is that Dr. Taft was murdered, by parties unknown in an extremely professional manner, with an obvious attempt to discredit the Lincoln Detox Program.

Big time dope pushers customarily use injections of massive quantities of heroin to eliminate their enemies

We believe that it is incorrect to make oversimplified conclusions about the identity and motivation of Richard's killers. His life work was the struggle against drug addiction. His murder is part of an on-going systematic attempt to sabotage this struggle. We can only understand why and how Richard was murdered by understanding Lincoln Detox history and the nature of all forces that promote and profit from drug addiction.

Lincoln Detox~



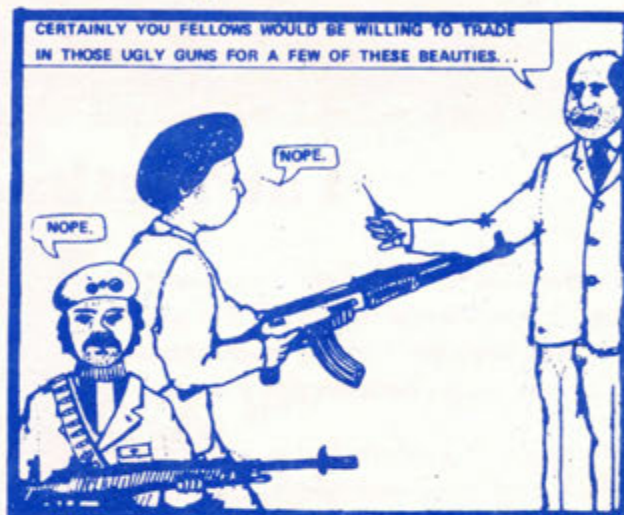
The People's Program

Lincoln Detox, staffed mainly by people who were themselves detoxified at the program, is known as "The People's Program." It is located in the South Bronx and has detoxified 35,000 victims of methadone and heroin in the five years of its existence.

Lincoln Detox is now using acupuncture as a non-chemical treatment for narcotic withdrawal. More information on acupuncture is given later in this pamphlet.



At Lincoln the counselors are not afraid to say that police and government officials at all levels share in the corruption of dope pushing. Drug addiction cannot be stopped if we look at it only as an individual problem.



Other Detox activities include the People's Program court collective, which recruits and assists lawyers to help at least a few of the thousands of poor people who are railroaded through the courthouses into jail. They help organize rent strikes, building takeovers, women's health work and organizations of construction workers. The people at Lincoln Detox see that all these struggles and many more are necessary before the roots of drug addiction can be ripped out of our land.

Political education classes at Lincoln Detox attract 50-100 people daily. These classes point out that Black, Puerto Rican and poor White neighborhoods are war zones. The armies of slumlords, script doctors, organized crime, greedy drug companies, methadone pushers, corrupt cops, and producers of rot-gut wine are plundering our communities.

Victims of heroin are low paid thieves for the mob. Many muggings and burglaries are caused by the drug plague. Drugs are the main reason women and young boys sell themselves into prostitution. Poor families are shattered by drug and alcohol use. Addicts, who are themselves victims, get blamed for crime, while rich dope dealers get away with murder.



Robert Newman (right), ex-head of NYC methadone maintenance is shown dispensing methadone.

The Methadone Plague

Half the clients who come to Lincoln Detox come with methadone habits. These people either come from methadone maintenance programs or buy methadone on the streets.

The people at Lincoln Detox know from experience how addicting and deadly methadone is. Kicking a methadone habit on your own is extremely hard. It usually takes 2 to 3 months to kick a methadone habit and many well motivated people can never withdraw from it because of the extremely severe withdrawal symptoms of insomnia,

diarrhea, depression and bone pain. No other drug has withdrawal symptoms that are in any way as prolonged or severe as methadone. Simultaneous addiction to barbiturates and alcohol are also quite common among methadone victims.

Lincoln Detox is the only place in New York where methadone victims can be detoxified whenever they want.

The dangerous physical effects of methadone maintenance are now well known. Methadone causes excessive sweating, painful constipation, sex hormone decrease and causes some people's bodies to swell up with fluid. Methadone hides symptoms of serious physical disease. All babies born to women on methadone will be addicted. These babies go through withdrawal 2-3 days after birth. An alarming 22% have seizures and brainwave changes. Eight Bronx methadone babies died of "crib death," an unexplained, unpredictable type of death which is very rare. Methadone babies die of crib death 17 times as often as other babies.



SPEAKING FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION... WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE LONG RANGE EFFECTS OF METHADONE USAGE... THAT WILL BE \$30



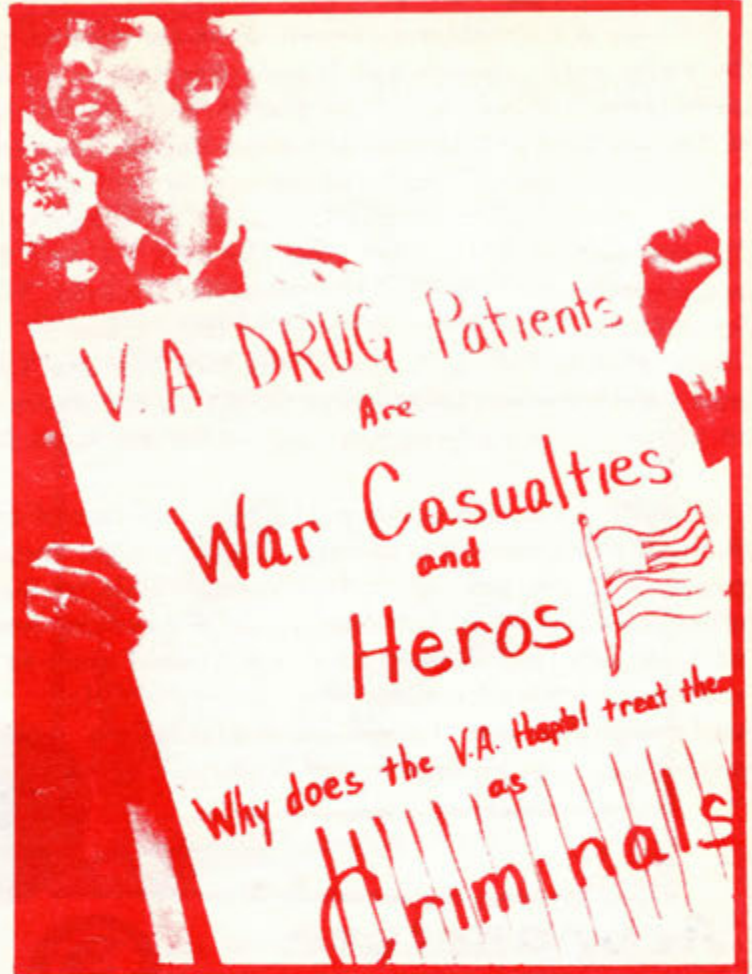
According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, in New York City, methadone overdose deaths--by five to one--outnumber heroin overdose deaths.

The Government is a Dope Pusher

Over 100,000 people are on methadone maintenance programs which are almost totally financed by federal grants and medicaid payments. Public schools, especially in Black and Latin neighborhoods, require 10% of grade school children to use ritalin for many years. This dangerous stimulant is supposed to be a treatment for so-called "hyper-active children." Virtually the only drug treatment offered by the Veteran's Administration for the thousands of vets who came home with serious drug problems is methadone.

Many people who are not addicted at the time, are forced onto methadone maintenance by judges, parole boards and the welfare department. For drug victims it's much easier to get on welfare, if they are on methadone maintenance programs. Many are tricked into believing methadone is a cure and then realize that they have been cruelly betrayed. Maintenance programs won't let you detoxify, even if you are pregnant, unless they feel you are "psychologically ready."

Everyone who is in a maintenance program is registered on computer tapes with a city drug



their prison sentences. We have received many letters from prisoners who chose to remain in jail, rather than be on methadone maintenance.

Nixon's special office for drug abuse received \$1.7 billion for their budget in 1972. 95% of this money supported methadone maintenance rather than drug free programs. Most of this money was channeled thru the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) which also funds lobotomies, psycho-surgery, and behavior modification programs in prisons. LEAA supplies tanks and sophisticated weapons to local police departments. LEAA does many of the same things in this country that the CIA does in other countries.



agency and also the private "Community Treatment Foundation" at the Rockefeller Institute. The computer system makes it very easy to locate and control victims of methadone maintenance.

Almost routinely, prisoners are offered methadone maintenance as an alternative to serving





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The Methadone Plague

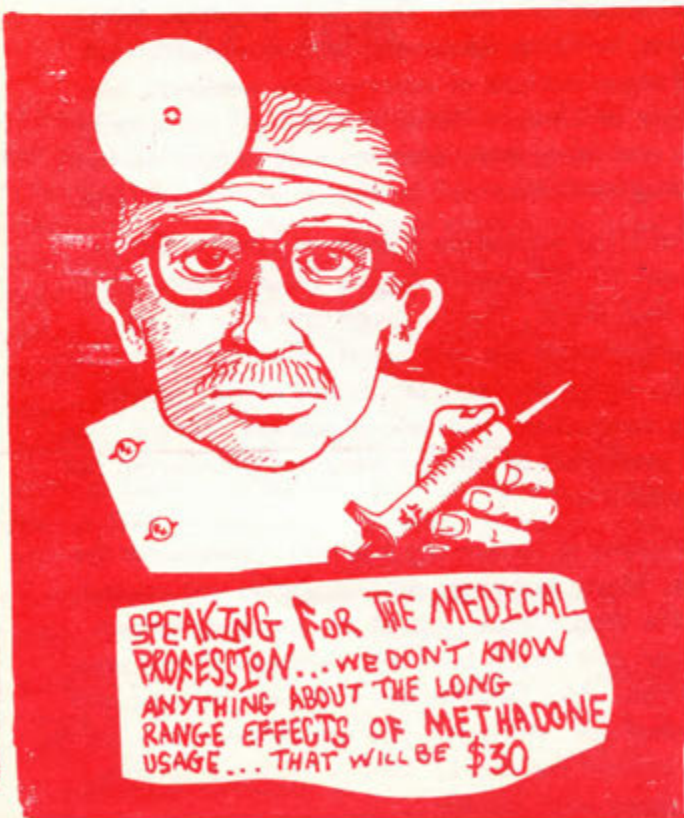
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Dr. Taft was heavily involved in the development and research of the Lincoln Detox Acupuncture Program for the treatment of drug addiction. This work has shown that acupuncture might totally eliminate the need to use methadone as a narcotic treatment.

Acupuncture uses thin solid needles inserted at certain points on the surface of the body to diagnose and treat many diseases. The needles are so thin that little pain or bleeding occurs. Your body's natural reactions are stimulated as the needles are vibrated by hand or by a battery run machine. A properly placed needle can speed or slow your heart rate or stop your nose from running. In the treatment of narcotic addiction, needles are usually placed on the surface of both ears and vibrated gently for 30 minutes, 2-3 times a day.

Last year acupuncture was demonstrated to several hundred people in the Lincoln Hospital auditorium. This is one of the statements made by a patient following treatment:

Delfina: "I was sick--yawning, runny nose, tearing eyes, pain in my bones. I was getting kind of nasty... When the sister put the needles in my ears, it felt like a little pinch, no pain... she turned up the dial and I started feeling nice. My nose and eyes stopped running. I started laughing and talking. The head was like being straight, not high, not sick. This acupuncture started working in 2 or 3 minutes... after the treatment I felt so good I refused my methadone!"

Widespread use of acupuncture could deal a crippling blow to methadone profiteers, the AMA, methadone parole programs and Eli Lilly & Co., producers of methadone.

While we are not sure who is responsible for the death of Dr. Taft, it is clear that powerful interest groups in this country, who would be hurt by the success of acupuncture treatment for narcotics addiction, stand the most to gain from this despicable act and from discrediting the Lincoln Detox Drug Program.



Man receiving ear acupuncture for treatment for narcotic withdrawal.

This pamphlet is produced by White Lightning, a revolutionary organization founded by ex-addicts. Black, Latin and poor White neighborhoods are war zones. The armies of slumlords, script doctors, organized crime, drug companies and corrupt cops are plundering our communities. For copies of this pamphlet or further information write to:

WHITE LIGHTNING
P.O. BOX 149
JEROME AVE. STATION
Bronx, N.Y. 10468

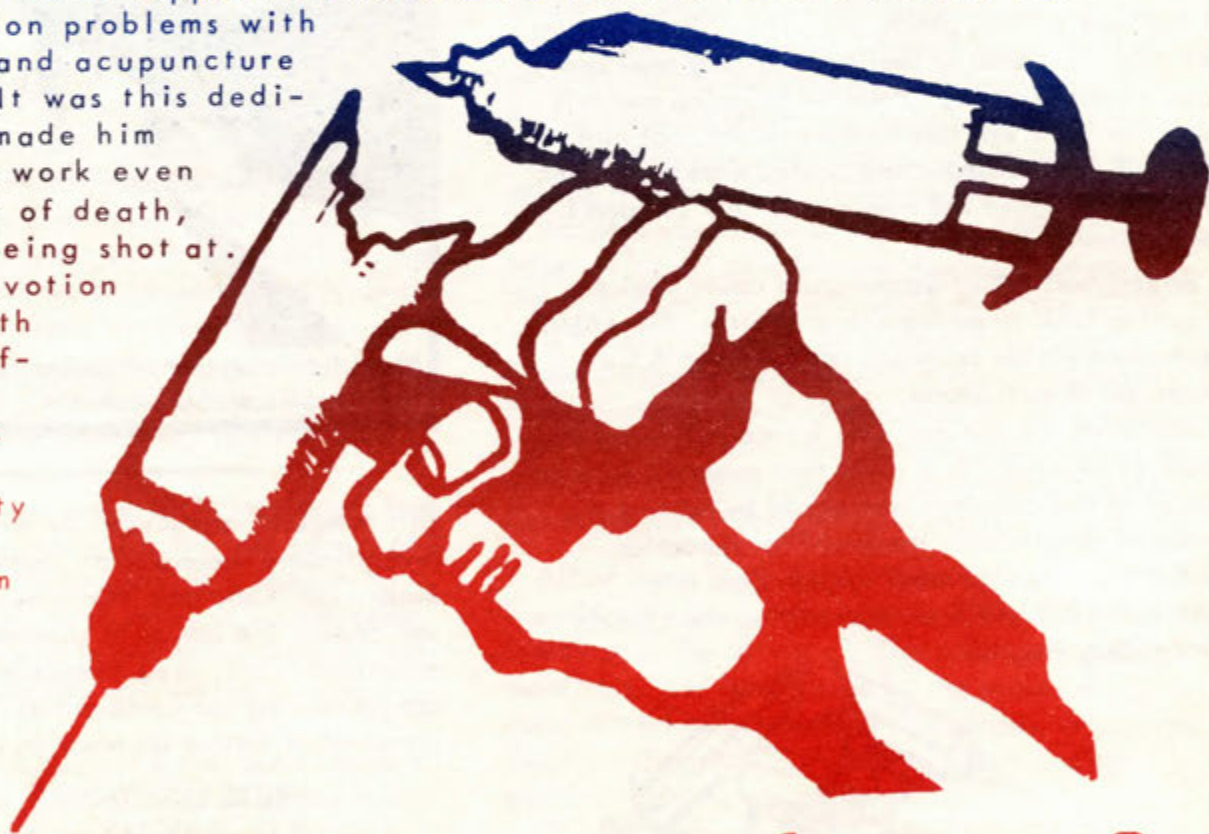
The following is a eulogy which was written as a memorial to Richard by his friends and co-workers.

In Memory of Richard Taft

Richard Taft, a man, a doctor and above all, a revolutionary. As a man he supported the right and fought the wrong. This principal he lived by and died by. It is this basic principal, his wanting to do right, that motivated him to face his responsibilities.

For over four years he served in the South Bronx community, dedicating his time and knowledge to helping people and teaching people's medicine to Black and Latin people. He served for one year as a medical doctor in the People's Program, Lincoln Detox. He was instrumental in training para-medics and researching acupuncture as the non-chemical treatment for narcotic withdrawal. It is perhaps this involvement that led to his death.

It was his commitment to fight the wrong that made him stand up and fight America's racism: he testified in behalf of brother James Richardson in his frame-up case for allegedly killing a policeman. Richard Taft helped in the organizing of tenant organizations to fight landlords. He supported the fight for freedom of political prisoners with money, physical and moral support. He dedicated his life to help people fight their addiction problems with his medical and acupuncture knowledge. It was this dedication that made him continue his work even under threat of death, even after being shot at. Richard's devotion to others with minimum selfishness was shown in his sense of responsibility in his work and his warm heartedness to all people.



Stop The Drug Plague!