

lacks capacity to express his or her own wishes or, owing to psychiatric illness, cannot see what is in his or her best interest or, for the same reason, is a severe threat to others.

In these cases compulsory treatment may or should be given, provided that it is done in the patient's best interests and over a reasonable period of time, a retroactive informed consent can be presumed, and, whenever possible, consent has been obtained from someone close to the patient.

(6) As soon as the above conditions for compulsory treatment no longer apply the patient must be released, unless he or she voluntarily consents to further treatment.

Whenever there is compulsory treatment or detention there must be an independent and neutral body of appeal for regular inquiry into these cases. Every patient must be informed of its existence and be permitted to appeal to it, personally or through a representative, without interference by the hospital staff or by anyone else.

(7) The psychiatrist must never use the possibilities of the profession for maltreatment of individuals or groups, and should be concerned never to let inappropriate personal desires, feelings, or prejudices interfere with the treatment.

The psychiatrist must not participate in compulsory psychiatric treatment in the absence of psychiatric illness. If the patient or some third party demands actions contrary to scientific or ethical principles the psychiatrist must refuse to co-operate. When, for any reason, either the wishes or the best interests of the patient cannot be promoted he or she must be so informed.

(8) Whatever the psychiatrist has been told by the patient, or has noted during examination or treatment, must be kept

confidential unless the patient releases the psychiatrist from professional secrecy, or else vital common values or the patient's best interest makes disclosure imperative. In these cases, however, the patient must be immediately informed of the breach of secrecy.

(9) To increase and propagate psychiatric knowledge and skill requires participation of the patients. Informed consent must, however, be obtained before presenting a patient to a class and, if possible, also when a case history is published, and all reasonable measures be taken to preserve the anonymity and to safeguard the personal reputation of the subject.

In clinical research, as in therapy, every subject must be offered the best available treatment. His or her participation must be voluntary, after full information has been given of the aims, procedures, risks, and inconveniences of the project, and there must always be a reasonable relationship between calculated risks or inconveniences and the benefit of the study.

For children and other patients who cannot themselves give informed consent this should be obtained from someone close to them.

(10) Every patient or research subject is free to withdraw for any reason at any time from any voluntary treatment and from any teaching or research programme in which he or she participates. This withdrawal, as well as any refusal to enter a programme, must never influence the psychiatrist's efforts to help the patient or subject.

The psychiatrist should stop all therapeutic, teaching, or research programmes that may evolve contrary to the principles of this Declaration.

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## Letter from . . . Chicago

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### Tutmania

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In the first year of the Carterian era the Good God Nebkheprure Tutankhamon, Living Horus, Son of the Sun, Strong Bull, Lord of the Two Kingdoms, and twelfth pharaoh of the eighteenth dynasty, visited the United States. Wearing the double crown with the uraeus, he set out from Thebes's Luxor-Karnak International Airport in his new Amon-Ra Concorde, flew over the Red Land and the Great Blue Water, and arrived in the City of the White House with his entourage. The next day, at the zoological gardens, he paid his respects to the crocodile Sebek, the lioness Sekhmet, the cow Hathor, the ibis Thoth, the vulture Nekhbet, and the cobra goddess Buto, but did not know what to make of the panda and the kangaroo.

During the next few months the Great God interviewed 800 000 people. He was told that the hyena gods of unemploy-

ment and inflation were losing ground but had not yet been banished, that Babylonian and Chaldaean oil was expensive and running out, and that people were being exhorted to ride on camels or in communal vehicles rather than in their own chariots. He heard that most people had no regrets about the fall of the former dynasty, that they were unimpressed with Mr David Frost's exhumation, that the former Great God could not have his tapes back, and that the Watergate episode was now as forgotten as the Amarna period. He was not surprised to hear that earlier pharaohs and high priests had also illegally bugged and wiretapped the temples of Amon or Aton. But he found on the whole that the people were well pleased with the new dynasty, that respect for the new high priests was growing, and that the polls indicated a rising popularity of Mr Carter (the one in the Great White House, not the one who had dug him up from the Valley of the Kings in 1922).

The Living Horus heard much talk about law and order. In many States the death penalty was coming back, also fixed sentences and reduced parole time, and curbs on the release from mental institutions of potentially dangerous individuals acquitted of violent crimes by reason of insanity. The Supreme Court had ruled that capital punishment was a disproportionate penalty for rape—and that States were not compelled to pay for poor people's abortions unless the mother's life was in

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danger. Conditions in many nursing homes for the aged and infirm were abominable. The new charlatan cancer cult of the apricot pit was sweeping the country. Across the nation pornography rings were luring children into unlawful practices with naked men, women, and animals. Sad people who called themselves gay were marching for their rights and corrupting the meaning of the words of our language. There was talk about reducing the penalties for smoking grass and about coping with the criminals who pushed people to embalm themselves prematurely with heroin. California and Idaho has passed "right to die" and "death with dignity" laws. Miss Karen Quinlan was still alive in her pyramid. The tombstone and ashes of the late movie producer Michael Todd had been stolen. And the Equal Rights Amendment was losing ground, which did not matter, since Nefertiti, Tiye, and Hatshepsut had been just as powerful without it anyway.

Having himself had his liver, lungs, stomach, and intestines transplanted into Canopic jars guarded by Isis, Nephthys, Neith, and Selket, Tutankhamon was none the less impressed with the progress in organ transplantation. He was particularly amazed by the feat of flying the kidney of a 32-year-old dead Muscovite all the way from the Scythian steppes—though he wondered why that should be necessary when so many natives killed themselves locally with guns and chariots. He heard Nobel prize winner Saul Bellow talk about "The Eighth Plague of Egypt," the destruction of the inner cities and their conversion into deserts. And he was concerned in an unpleasant international episode when one of the high priests called him a racist for claiming to descend from the Sun and for refusing to grant civil rights to the Nubians and Lybians.

### Chicago

From Washington the Son of the Sun left for Chicago. Here he admired the Sears Tower, Standard Oil, and John Hancock pyramids, first, fourth, and fifth tallest buildings in the world. He visited the irrigation system which, with the blessing of the god Hapi, had made the Chicago River flow not into Lake Michigan but backwards into the Illinois River and then into the Mississippi. And he compared the power of the priests of Amon, the hidden one, with the delicate workings of the indestructible Chicago Democratic political machine, which had fully survived the death of its former boss, Mayor Richard Daley.

His court in Chicago the pharaoh held at the Field Museum of Natural History. Here one million people admired the 55 objects brought from his tomb, gazed with amazement at the glowing reds and golds and blues and semitranslucent alabasters, at the chair of ebony inlaid with ivory and gold, at the golden mask, and the Canopic coffins. Some 800 people attended an opening night black-tie gala ceremony, crowding the bars and enjoying the Assyrian cucumber and yoghurt salad, and leaving little time for exchanging pleasantries with Anubis, the jackal god of embalming; Ptah, the principal god of Memphis; Shu, the god of the air and wind; and Seth, the god of evil. But on the next day the Living Horus reviewed a parade of 8000 people, some of whom had waited in line eight hours, and the parade continued for the ensuing three months, during which the Son of the Sun was more than once troubled by the climatic conditions of the Windy City, though protected by his \$3 billion golden face mask against the inroads of Shu.

### Health of the people

Wherever he went the Living Horus displayed an intelligent interest in the health of the people. He was told that the mean weight of American men was 172 lb, and of women 143 lb; that the mean heights were 69 and 63 inches, respectively; and that women lived eight years longer than men. There had been con-

siderable health gains, with the age-adjusted death rate per 100 000 of population declining from 288 in 1962 to 270 in 1968, and 222 in 1975; and with the death rate from coronary heart disease decreasing, perhaps because people were eating less and jogging more. But there were also some very strange diseases in America. In Michigan five people had died mysteriously and may have been murdered by nurses. Also in Michigan 50 people got botulism from eating home-canned hot green peppers in a Mexican restaurant. In South Carolina a 17-year-old girl had died from what was probably swine influenza. At Northwestern University a young doctor went blind from Stevens-Johnson syndrome and was studying to become a psychiatrist; and at the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta two maintenance workers had died from unsuspected Rocky Mountain fever.

Later he read that according to a Harris Survey the public still held the medical profession in high esteem, with 43% of adults expressing "a great deal of confidence" in doctors—as compared with 37% for higher education, 27% for the military, 28% for television news, 18% for the press, local, and State governments, 14% for law firms, and 7% for advertising agencies. But he also heard that addiction to drugs or alcohol was said to afflict as many as one in nine Illinois doctors; that nurses were less impressed with doctors, with 38% of 1000 surveyed nurses stating they wouldn't want to be patients in their own hospitals; that Medicaid and Medicare continued to be riddled with fraud; and that an Alabama doctor was censured, put on probation, and ordered to pay \$75 000 in damages for removing fresh stitches from the injured arm of a black boy who couldn't pay all of his \$25 fee.

He also heard how the government and insurance companies were trying to cut costs by instituting second opinion programmes for surgery; and how some insurance carriers would no longer pay for uterine or renal suspensions, sympathectomies, carotid body excisions, internal mammary implantations, radical haemorrhoidectomy, basal metabolic rate determinations, perirenal air insufflation, and circumcision of the clitoris for frigidity. He heard how medical schools were in financial difficulties and how the first-year tuition rates at some medical schools were going to be \$12 000 a year. He was told that educators were discovering that it takes four years to train a doctor (although many three-year programmes had been quite successful); that the government was thinking about cutting costs by reducing the number of medical students; that there was still a fight about whether residents were students or employees; that many doctors were successfully countersuing lawyers for frivolous use of the courts; and that lawyers had begun to advertise in the daily papers for customers.

Meanwhile the Great Vizier and Divine Father Aye visited the health vizier Califano and was told that national health insurance was essential but that it had to be preceded by cost containment, better planning, and reorganisation; and that this was being achieved by the creation of a health care financing administration, to administer, under a "single tough-minded cost-conscious administrator," Medicare, Medicaid, quality control, fraud and abuse programmes, federal drug purchases, and perhaps, eventually, national health insurance itself. He also heard about plans for a massive immunisation campaign, since at present about one-third of all children under the age of 15 lacked adequate protection against communicable diseases. But he was most surprised about the fuss made when that vizier hired a personal cook for \$12 000 and a bodyguard for \$43 000 per year, when he himself had at least 1000 of each.

During all this time the Empress Ankhesenamon had little else to do but go shopping. And, finding Chicago in a veritable state of Egyptomania, she was able to purchase Tut scarves at \$55 each, golden scarabs at \$12 000, wallpaper depicting the goddess Selket, and various Egyptian-inspired perfumes and colognes, china and bedsheets, and even a bathtub—all to be shipped home to her palace at Malkata, to be enjoyed for the next few thousand years in remembrance of her visit to Chicago.