

Hammerschlag v. Blackwell.

3/7/74

H's letter of 3/4 was my first hint of an issue. I had seen Lamm's article (cited in some journal) and found it to be a Swiftian modest proposal. Lamm had made some passing comments about ethnic-specific weapons.

But the idea might have been dynamic. I have never heard of any serious consideration of an ethnic weapon "discussed in military circles" apart from the speculations of critics; as far as I know.

It is particularly difficult to envisage what rare Hb polymorphs would have to do with such a program. (The pigmentation reactions would be the only point of differentiation I could envisage as exposing any biochemical basis for differential toxicity.) Nor can I envisage the military utility of such a weapon. But the fantasies of the anti-DOO critics are unlimited (and who knows what stupidities may be entrusted in some divisions of the Army!)

(incl. metabolic screening!)

I have awful visions of how such research can be depicted in the public mind. Alpa can take care of itself; but human genetics might suffer miserably - especially as it is already the focus of such controversy (Jensensons, enzymes, genetic engineering). My personal, improbable and coincidental contacts with Alpa could fan the flames. (Jasen; Several/Arpaet support.)

Head off inevitable allegations of first invention.

Why Aupa is supporting this arena?

The Klerer book paints AGILE as the focus of country -
misery-gunsy efforts

Hyp 1. - Aupa was the conduit for PHS funding
of the maternal nutrition project. Not likely.

Hyp 2. - AGILE includes an economic/health/
nutrition segment. Gladwell may have added as his own
interests on hemoglobin without this being an explicit part
of the Aupa mission.

My phone calls yesterday were unrewarding.
Basan Chow had died (I had some reports in my files).
Roger Shuman knew nothing of the fiscal aspect - he ori-
ginally thought that Chow had some peculiar ideas on the poli-
tical implications of nutrition. Roger Herriott knew nothing
of the HB side of the project. Had some reservations about
Chow's science. (e.g. levels of malnutrition in Taiwan.)

Aupa should stay out of human genetics!