

Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments
1726 M Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
phone (202) 254-9795
fax (202) 254-9827

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Phil Caplan

From: Dan Guttman

Re: Article

Date: April 25, 1995

Total pages including cover - 1

Phil-

FYI - This month's Scientific American.

Dan

The Cold War's Dirty Secrets

Radiation experiments ignored ethics guidelines

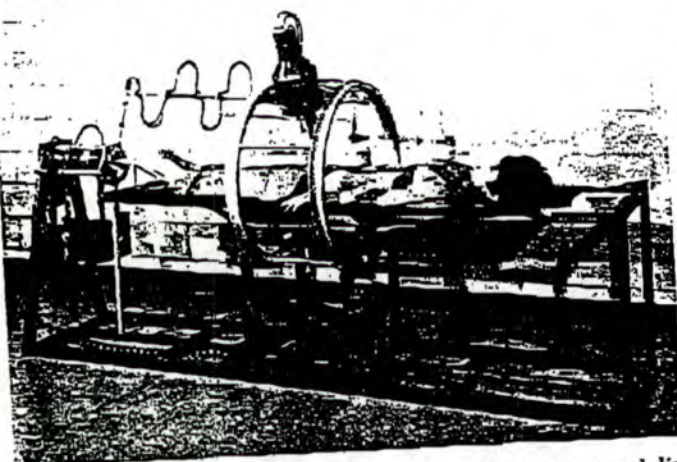
Over the past year a federal advisory committee has doggedly dragged into public view thousands of government-funded studies in which people were deliberately exposed to radiation. The details, to be released in a report next month, are chilling. Some of the tests—conducted between 1944 and 1974—exposed humans to levels of radioactivity now known to be dangerous, and the number of subjects appears to be far greater than previously realized. It is also coming to light that many patients were not well informed about possible dangers or were deceived outright. Perhaps most distressing of all, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments has determined that informed consent was required—but ignored.

Some of these horror stories have been known for years. At the top of the list are studies conducted at the University of Rochester and elsewhere in which 18 people were injected with plutonium, 17 of them unknowingly. The tests were designed to determine the risks the substance posed to laboratory workers. Although some of the doses were considered lethal at that time, Wright Langham, then at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories, justified the work by saying the subjects were hopelessly ill. Nevertheless, four of these "doomed" participants survived another 20 years.

Just as controversial is work that was undertaken by Eugene Saenger between 1961 and 1972 at the University of Cincinnati. Saenger exposed some 88 cancer patients to high levels of whole-body radiation; 62 were African-Americans, a high proportion for a clinical study at the time. According to David S. Egilman, a physician in Braintree, Mass., who is studying the topic, many of the subjects had cancers known to be resistant to whole-body radiation. They were deceived about the likely side effects, and radiation was given in intensities known to be too high for optimal therapeutic effect. The true intent, Egilman contends, was to gather data useful for the Defense Department's nuclear war-planning file. The University of Cincinnati, which is facing lawsuits from the families of victims, refuses to comment. The American College of Radiology defends

the work, saying the patients had no alternative therapies available to them.

Other disturbing tales became public only after December 1993, when Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary asked her department to release as much relevant data as possible. For instance, scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of



WHOLE-BODY SCANNER was used to detect the amount and distribution of radiation in experimental subjects.

Technology fed mentally retarded boys radioactive iron—yet the parental consent forms made no mention of radioactivity. The list goes on and on: the number of tests logged by the committee is close to 4,000, and, all told, it seems likely that more than 20,000 subjects nationwide were exposed.

The recent findings have made untenable the defense that experimenters were simply following contemporary ethical codes. The general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, the agency that preceded the Department of Energy, is on record as insisting that informed consent be obtained from subjects as early as 1947, when the Nuremberg Code was drafted for the trials of Nazi concentration camp doctors. The code advances informed consent as a requirement for medical research.

The Defense Department had a similar directive in place by 1953.

Low-ranking officials seem to have ignored such orders. One possible explanation is that the codes were classified, so some administrators might not have been aware of them. But memorandums now being released suggest another reason. Although the American Medical Association endorsed informed consent in 1946, physicians said the requirement limited their authority. As a

result, consent was watered down: two doctors were allowed to certify that a subject understood the setup and would cooperate.

The actual risks in most of the experiments were probably not excessive, notes Ruth R. Faden, of Johns Hopkins University, the advisory committee chair. And the data led to procedures that are currently widely used. Faden also points out that some cancer victims may have been willing subjects. Others may have volunteered to help counter the Soviet threat. Nevertheless, no exemptions excusing military-related studies from informed consent have been discovered.

Subjects of medical experiments were not the only victims. Millions of people were exposed to radiation from intentional releases of radioisotopes into the atmosphere during bomb tests. The Department of Energy recently disclosed that there have been more than 250 such releases; soldiers in the 1940s were routinely exposed to fallout. Thousands have joined in class-action lawsuits against the government.

Can perpetrators be judged at 20 to 50 years' remove? Faden says the panel will focus on institutional failings rather than on blaming individuals. But the lessons, she says, carry force even now. The committee is taking a hard look at whether participants in medical research today always know what they are getting into.

—Tim Beardslee

Tribal Struggle

Stone Age guardians of the Andaman Islands fight to survive

Over the 18 square miles of North Sentinel Island in the Bay of Bengal roams possibly the most isolated tribe on the earth. For centuries these 100-odd hunter-gatherers have enforced their seclusion by greeting approaching ships with arrows. Nearby,

on other islands of the Andaman chain related Negrito groups evince different hazards of battling civilization. Some having lost, are dying of disease or mysterious sterility. Others pursue guerrilla warfare, vanishing into forests at moonlit raids on immigrant villages.

**Movies for kids**
A guide to good views
Arts & Leisure, G1

**Camp guide**
Tons of Tristate sites
Times, Section E

Masters crowded at the top
Co-leader Ben Cronshaw Sports, C1

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER • 843,200 READERS

SUNDAY • APRIL 9, 1995

FINAL EDITION • \$1.50

The UC experiments were a failure caused by "a confluence of breakdowns at virtually every level of responsibility... within and outside the university."



The radiation study was "an investigation that probably should not have begun in the first place and continued over a decade with no appreciable results."

'Moral censure' of UC testing likely

Panel's draft report criticizes methods, results, 'unnecessary pain'

BY PAUL BARTON
Enquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — There were breakdowns in judgment at "virtually every level of responsibility" in Cold War human radiation experiments at the University of Cincinnati from 1960 to 1971, according to a draft final report from a national panel.

The panel describes the work of

Dr. Eugene Saenger and other UC researchers as being of questionable scientific, medical and military value, and says the Cincinnati experiments raise "the specter" of patient abuse through a lack of informed consent and procedures that caused "unnecessary pain."

The Enquirer viewed draft chapters of the report being circulated

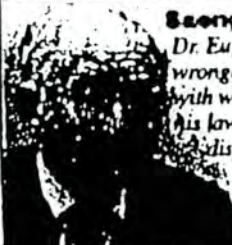
among the 20 members of the federal Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments as it rushes to complete its work by late May or early June. The panel, appointed by President Clinton, began its review a year ago.

The committee's final report goes to President Clinton and Congress. It is expected to provide the impetus for

a wide range of steps to address victims of abusive experiments and their families, including possible compensation, apologies or both.

The draft report describes UC experiments as "an investigation that probably should not have begun in the first place and continued over a decade with no appreciable results."

(Please see UC, Page A7)

**Saenger lawyer denies harm**
Dr. Eugene Saenger has denied any wrongdoing in treating 88 patients with whole-body radiation. Saturday, his lawyer, R. Joseph Parker, said the disputed treatment was beneficial to Saenger's patients: "Nothing else was going to work for those folks."

UC: 'Moral censure' likely in national report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

A chapter on Saenger's work describes the 11-year run of experiments as a failure that resulted from "breakdowns at virtually every level of responsibility — from (Department of Defense) contractors to investigating physicians to the peer reviewers from within and outside the university."

'Moral censure' likely

If the report retains its critical tone, it would be the first examination of the Cincinnati experiments from a major reviewing body to do so.

Two other reports, one by a blue-ribbon UC panel and one by the American College of Radiology in the early 1970s, praised the work as adhering to valid scientific and ethical standards.

Saenger's attorney, R. Joseph Parker, disputed many of the statements in the current report, accusing the panel of not understanding Saenger's work or the era in which it was conducted.

Nothing had changed in work for those years, Parker said of Saenger's patients.

Saenger has vigorously defended the integrity of his research. The only previous criticism by any reviewing body came from a group of junior faculty at UC in 1972.

While the advisory committee staff emphasized the draft could change, members of the panel acknowledged the final report likely

would contain "moral censure" of the UC work and other high-profile radiation experiments performed around the country.

"All of us are troubled that these experiments (at UC) went on more than 10 years when there was little reason to believe they had any clinical value and appeared to be primarily driven by military purposes," said Dr. Duncan Thomas, professor of medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

The draft report, expected to have 15-30 chapters when completed, devotes one chapter to whole-body radiation experiments, focusing on what took place in Cincinnati. Between 1960 and 1971, Saenger submitted 88 patients at the former General Hospital in Corryville to whole body radiation treatments.

The study was funded largely by \$651,000 from the Pentagon, which was seeking information on how radiation would affect soldiers on the nuclear battlefield.

Medical purpose unknown

Although Saenger has said his work was primarily medical research, the draft report said "The evidence reviewed by the committee suggests the (total body irradiation) program at the University of Cincinnati was designed principally to accomplish the military's interest to the potential detriment of patients."

The draft report said: "The clinical objectives have never been

clearly discerned, even to this day."

Reviews of the experiments done afterward by researchers themselves concluded they accelerated the deaths of at least eight patients and possibly as many as 20, according to the draft report.

Pain unnecessary?

The draft also noted nausea and vomiting suffered by many patients, and said records raise "questions as to whether patients were subjected to unnecessary pain during the course of treatments."

Saenger's team withheld information about possible side effects of treatments from patients out of fear reactions might be psychologically induced, the report said.

In contrast, it said, doctors involved in similar research at another hospital gave patients medication to control symptoms shortly after administering treatments.

Some of Saenger's patients suffered up to two days of vomiting.

"There does not seem to be any medical reason for withholding treatment for these symptoms," the draft report said.

The report also takes note of how many of the patients were mentally impaired; quoting reports by UC doctors describing many as displaying "signs of functional cerebral organic intellectual impairment" before they were irradiated.

Personalities of those patients were marked by a tendency to be "humile" and "mild."

The advisory committee's draft said: "Not only did this condition limit the value of this particular study, it also calls into question the ability of these patients to understand the doctors' explanations of the risks and benefits in order to make an informed decision on whether or not to submit to the (radiation) procedures."

'A near total failure'

The Pentagon imposed rigorous informed consent requirements on its scientists and contractors beginning in the 1950s. But the advisory committee said it found no records indicating Saenger was instructed to follow such procedures. Saenger has said he didn't know of the requirements.

Saenger did not start using written consent forms until the mid-1960s. "Family members of patients claim that informed consent was not adequate," the report said.

The report also said that if the experiments' bottom line was new knowledge, they were a near total failure.

The (advisory) committee has not found any record from the (Department of Defense) indicating what, if anything, it learned from the (radiation) studies performed by UC or any of the other institutions," it said. "Reports by the UC doctors and by the review committee set up in 1971 indicate most of the studies failed to achieve the results they were seeking."

Moreover, at the start of UC experiments, there was plenty of evidence available from other institutions that total or whole-body irradiation yielded few, if any, benefits.

"The (Saenger) study began at a time when data from earlier (defense department) studies, and the public literature, suggested that the medical and military objectives had little chance of success," it said.

U.S. Reps. Rob Portman and Steve Chabot, Cincinnati Republicans, are urging the panel to take more time. Portman said the credibility of the report would be a major factor in what congressional action is taken.

The document could also strengthen several lawsuits related to Saenger's work.

Gwendon Phair, spokesman for a Cincinnati cancer study patient families' group, said he agreed "wholeheartedly" with the draft conclusions of the advisory committee, adding "we strongly encourage them to make that (working) part of their final report."

Efforts to reach University of Cincinnati officials were unsuccessful Saturday.

In January, a federal judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit brought by families who claimed loved ones were unwitting guinea pigs in radiation experiments.

U.S. District Judge Sandra Beckwith's decision against dismissal was the first significant ruling in the

proposed class-action case filed a year ago against UC. It researchers, two Pentagon procurement officials and the city of Cincinnati, which at the time owned General Hospital. The hospital is now University Hospital, operated by UC.

Report called wrong

Saenger's attorney on Saturday said the draft report was wrong on many points.

As to the research allegedly having no value, Parker said medical and scientific journals in the 1970s evaluated Saenger's work and found it sound.

About patients being denied treatment for nausea and vomiting, Parker said medicine was offered. "It's in the (medical) charts," he said.

On the charge that the research served military rather than medical interests, Parker said the experiments served both. "I see it as illogical to assign priority to one or the other," he said.

Parker also said the informed consent issue cannot be judged by today's standards. In many cases, he said, Saenger went beyond today's standards to ensure patients were not pressured into participating.

Parker added, "What do you tell them? You don't go into a scientific discourse."

12TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Reuters, Limited

April 9, 1995, Sunday, BC cycle

LENGTH: 374 words

HEADLINE: US atomic tests killed chemists' white blood cells

BODY:

Release at 6 p.m. EDT WASHINGTON (Reuter) The U.S. Army exposed chemists at its Los Alamos lab in the 1940s and '50s to such high doses of radiation that their white blood cell counts dipped, according to documents released Sunday by a presidential advisory panel.

The documents show that health officials believed there would have been an outcry had workers known about the impact of the gamma radiation tests and feared divulging the reports.

"The results of the studies indicate that the tolerance levels for chronic exposure to gamma radiation which have been accepted both within the (Atomic Energy Commission) and elsewhere may be too high," chief insurance officer Cl Wilson wrote in a December 1948 memo on workers at the northern New Mexico lab.

"In the hands of labor unions the results of this study would add substance to demands for extra-hazardous pay," the memo said.

In the same period, studies found that technicians working with uranium compounds at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee were not totally protected from absorbing uranium.

The declassified documents are among many being reviewed by a panel appointed by President Clinton to assess the government's role in human radiation experiments and whether it should compensate some of the test subjects.

Advisory panel staff said it was not clear whether the information was ever released to Los Alamos workers, whether any steps were taken to protect them, whether the depressed white blood cell counts had any impact on their health.

While most of the panel's work has focused on Cold War-era experiments, it also reviewing environmental oversight of top secret defense sites by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Defense Department, Energy Department and Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA informed the panel that none of its staff has the clearance to inspect the so-called "black" defense programs.

The agency said it monitors other federal agencies' actions by reviewing their environmental impact statements.

EPA also said no staff had ever been assigned to inspect a highly classified Air Force site at Groom Lake, Nevada.

The site is the subject of two lawsuits involving alleged burning of toxic materials in the open air.



Dr Saenger We didn't hurt patients

By Bill Straub
Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Dr. Eugene Saenger dismisses claims that his total body radiation experiments at Cincinnati General Hospital hastened the deaths of terminal cancer patients.

"I think it's important to understand, in this context, these people all had very advanced cancer," Saenger said in interviews with a special White House-appointed commission that is looking into the experiments.

"All this stuff about they gave them the treatment and the mother's life may have been prolonged had they not been treated are examples of wool-gathering," he said.

Saenger's attitudes toward his patients are contained in a series of interviews conducted by investigators from the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

Saenger has declined any detailed public comment on the experiments, conducted on 88 patients between 1960 and 1971.

Transcripts of the commission interviews, released in Washington on

About the project

Dr. Eugene Saenger headed an experiment conducted between 1960 and 1971 Cincinnati General Hospital that used whole body radiation to treat patients with advanced cancer.

The Cold-War era experiments were partially funded by the military, which wanted to know what effect large doses of radiation might have on a nuclear battlefield.

Wednesday, are the first extensive comments from Saenger to be made public.

The commission was appointed by the White House after reports surfaced in several cities about cold war-era human radiation experiments.

In the interviews, Saenger acknowledged that patients never were fully informed of the effects of large doses of radiation or that the experiments were funded by the

Department of Defense, which was eager to determine the possible effects of radiation on U.S. troops.

"Some of these patients, as amazing as it may seem, say, 'Well, if I'm dead, I'm no better off. Why don't I let Dr. so-and-so try this even if he thinks it's no good?'" Saenger said.

Saenger's attorney, Joseph Parker, said the transcript sheds no new light on Dr. Saenger's work, which has been "a matter of public record" for more than two decades.

"This is not news and this is the point we have been trying to get across to people," Parker said.

He said Saenger's interviews with the advisory committee did give the doctor an opportunity to put his work into context after extensive publicity that raised doubts about the research.

Saenger was interviewed by investigators in Cincinnati on Sept. 15, 1994. A follow-up interview was conducted on Oct. 24, 1994.

The talks covered several hours. In more than 170 pages of transcript reviewed Wednesday by The Post, Saenger:

Please see SAENGER, 7A

Saenger

From Page 1A

■ Acknowledged that his research team followed "no strict rules" about treatment or what to tell patients, even when it came to who was funding the experiments.

■ Asserted that, given their deteriorating physical condition, most of his patients didn't care about the effects of radiation.

"These people were so badly off, I was surprised some of them lived as long as they did," he said, adding that some of those involved in the program lived longer than expected.

■ Said he would have continued his research beyond 1971 had the University of Cincinnati not ended the program in 1971 after bad publicity.

■ Continually rejected claims that his total body radiation experiments at Cincinnati General hastened the deaths of any terminal cancer patients.

"If you tell everybody all the terrible things that are going to happen, the pa-

tient becomes more likely to have the complaint," Saenger said.

■ Insists, throughout the transcripts, that the care provided to his 88 patients wasn't compromised in order to provide the Department of Defense with the data it sought.

His prime motivation was to determine the impact of high doses of radiation on so-called solid tumors.

The research and the treatment of the patients were kept separate.

The funding, he said, was necessary to hire researchers and set up lab equipment.

"The substances we were looking for and the effects of radiation were equally important in treating cancer as compared to the needs and desires of the DOD," Saenger said.

Asked further why he pushed forward when the "overwhelming" literature available indicated his studies were doomed to failure, Saenger responded:

"I think the word overwhelming is sort of in the mind of the reader. What may be overwhelming to you is not

overwhelming to me."

Saenger's argument that some cancer patients survived longer than expected run counter to information offered by family members. Gwendon Plair, a mental health therapist at Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D.C., said his mother, Beatrice, was told she had five years to live when she was diagnosed with cancer of the trachea in 1964.

She started under Saenger's program, Plair said, and suffered a painful death within 187 days.

Herbert Varin said his mother, Nina, complained that Saenger's researchers were trying to kill her.

She died soon after she started receiving treatments in 1967. Plair is among a group of family members of Saenger patients who are suing Saenger and others in federal court over the treatments.

Saenger insisted that most of his patients "seemed to be content with the quality of clinical care that they got considering this was a very far-advanced group of people."

"These were not people who were getting up and riding their bikes down to the corner to get some cigarettes," he said. "We thought we were taking good care of the patients."

Much of the commission's attention has been focused on how much Saenger and his assistants informed the patients — who were mostly poor minorities — about the experimental nature of the procedures.

From 1960 to 1965, Saenger said, the researchers agreed among themselves what the patients should and should not be told.

"Whenever I have handled any patient I have always made it my business to tell you exactly what was going on," Saenger said.

Starting in 1965, patients were asked to sign consent forms.

But no one in Saenger's group informed any of the patients that the experiment was being funded, at least in part, by the Department of Defense.

"It never occurred to us," Saenger said, adding later that he has "never seen anything that exclusively says you

must tell the patient where the money comes from.

"... When people get in that state, they don't really care if they have informed consent or anything," Saenger said.

"They just say, 'Doctor, if you can do something for me, just do it.'... People don't go through all this fine-tuning."

Saenger said he found it amazing that he was never advised by the Department of Defense that he was expected to provide a great deal of information to his patients under the so-called Nuremberg Code.

The doctor expressed real surprise when the interviewers provided him with a once top-secret Pentagon document from 1953 in which the secretary of defense instructs the Joint Chiefs of Staff that human subjects in medical and scientific research for the military should be fully aware of the goals and hazards of experiments.

"There is no evidence; there's no trace anywhere; there's nothing in our files that correspond to this," he said.

To: advisory staff
cc:
From: Mark Goodman/ACHRE
Date: 04/10/95 10:59:35 AM
Subject: ACHRE in the news

Experiments Done On Workers

02:36 AM Today

Category: Washington news
Uranium-Workers

Keywords:

^*1155 < ^AP-Uranium-Workers<,0804 <
^Experiments Done On Workers < <

WASHINGTON (AP) _ Workers at a uranium processing plant at Oak Ridge, Tenn., were targeted in the late 1940s as research subjects in an effort to learn more about the effects of radiation on the body, a recently declassified document suggests.

The document, found among boxes of secret papers, outlined an elaborate plan to study the workers through medical tests and, when possible, collecting tissue samples, including bones, extracted teeth and other body parts.

Although details remain sketchy, the document suggests the researchers' interest was foremost in research about radiation health effects as opposed to gathering health data to provide worker protection, one investigator said.

``There is an opportunity," the researchers argued in detailing the proposed studies in a 1949 memo, ``to secure the type of medical information required ... to interpret, in terms of human experience, the toxicological findings of small animal research."

The Oak Ridge document was found among hundreds of boxes of classified papers in a storage vault at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory by investigators from the president's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The panel, which for a year has been examining the government's use of humans in radiation experiments during the decades of the Cold War, is expected to discuss the document and other issues at two days of meetings this week.

Some of the Oak Ridge workers were involved in electromagnetic separation of uranium at increasingly high concentrations, according to the document. Others were mechanics and technicians participating in programs referred to only by their code names _ ``Sunflower" and ``Daffodil" _ with no further explanation.

Most of the research data were to be sent to the University of Rochester School of Medicine, which in the 1940s and early 1950s conducted much of the research into radiation effects on humans.

Some of the plan called for collecting hard and soft tissue samples and extracted teeth, and upon a worker's death, collecting bones and body parts so they could be closely examined for radiation effects.

“This will involve making arrangements with various hospitals and dental clinics in the (Oak Ridge) vicinity so that when these employees have an appendix removed these tissue samples will be available for analysis,” the memo said.

“Furthermore, arrangements should be made to secure samples of ... rib, sternum, vertebra and femur ... when such an opportunity is presented,” it added.

While the memo, written by a scientist at Oak Ridge, said the research plan had been thoroughly discussed and given wide support, it's not certain to what extent the proposal was implemented. Investigators believe it was pursued at least to some degree.

“It's unclear what these workers were told, whether these (health study) plans were shared with them, and whether they were ever told about their exposures,” says a staff summary prepared for the presidential advisory panel.

Another part of the proposed research effort outlined a proposal to track uranium intake and absorption by closely monitoring “one or two subjects” working on the electromagnetic separation project. The memo said that despite precautions, it was known some uranium was taken in by the workers.

To determine how much uranium the workers actually were breathing, a “dummy respirator” _ set to run at the same rate as the workers' breathing level _ was set up alongside the workers and examined daily. They also underwent regular examinations.

Separate papers uncovered by the presidential panel involve medical studies of workers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, who were subject to chronic radiation exposure as a result of tests on bomb mechanisms. Low-level radiation was released as part of the testing.

A series of newly uncovered documents showed that health checks on the workers from 1946 to the mid-1950s all showed “significant depression of white blood cell counts.”

Researchers were concerned about the findings, but in a 1954 memo, Thomas Shipman, director of the Los Alamos health division, wrote that the records “indicate nothing startling or dramatic.”

“If they do mean anything, we don't know what it is,” wrote

Shipman to Gordon Dunning, a physician with the Atomic Energy Commission.

The tests, involving five to 15 workers at a time, continued through the early 1960s. ``It remains unclear whether this group was ever told of the abnormal findings ... or whether any steps were taken to further limit their exposure," a presidential advisory panel staff summary concludes.

AP-NY-04-10-95 0136EDT<

END OF FILE-> WIREREADY NEWSWIRE SYSTEMS INC.

Copyright 1995, The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
FAX COVER SHEET

NOTE: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE
IS CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED FOR THE RECIPIENT ONLY.

DATE: 4.10.95

TO: Phil Caplan

FAX #: 66704

FROM: JOCELYN M. JOLLEY
456-7500 (TEL) 456-6221 (FAX)

RE: Can you give me some
direction on where this
letter should go for a
response?

PAGE 1 OF 3

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call (202) 456-7500.

FAX SENT:

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

95 APR 10 AM 11:20

April 6, 1995

**The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500**

Dear President Clinton:

We are writing to express our support for extending the charter of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments to ensure that the Committee has sufficient time to fully complete its investigation into the issue of Cold War era human radiation experiments. We have become increasingly concerned that unless additional time - at least two to three months - is provided, the Advisory Committee will be unable to fulfill its responsibilities under its charter. We understand the Advisory Committee has been forced by the wealth of information it is examining to extend its deadline a few weeks already. Given the importance of the Committee's final report to the policy decisions that will subsequently fall to Congress to resolve, it is essential that the Committee's report be credible, and that its conclusions and recommendations be based on as comprehensive an investigation as possible. Given the weight of information revealed over the last year as to the human radiation experimentation that was conducted or sponsored by the U.S. Government, the Advisory Committee should not be forced to adhere to its original charter deadline for completion of its work and submission of its final report.

The Advisory Committee was chartered to "provide to the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group advice and recommendations on the ethical and scientific standards applicable to human radiation experiments carried out or sponsored by the United States Government" from 1944 to May of 1974, with authorization to investigate more recent human radiation experiments as well. Among other things, the Advisory Committee was directed to consider "whether (A) there was clear medical or scientific purpose for the experiments; (B) appropriate medical follow-up was conducted; and (C) the experiments' design and administration adequately met the ethical and scientific standards, including standards of informed consent, that prevailed at the time of the experiments and that exist today."

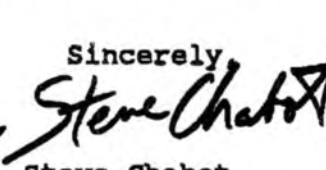
At the time the Advisory Committee was formed when the foregoing mandate was issued, it was assumed by most that - as Secretary of Energy O'Leary stated at the time - we were looking at 45 to 50 radiation experiments to which no more than approximately 800 persons had been subjected. Twelve months later, in February of 1995, the Department of Energy reported that during the Cold War years just the Atomic Energy Commission alone sponsored over 150 experiments potentially affecting almost 9,000 people! And we have yet to receive a full accounting from other agencies implicated in the radiation experiments such as the Defense Department, which sponsored the radiation experiments of particular concern to the people of Cincinnati.

Clearly, the magnitude of the task that was bestowed upon the Advisory Committee was something that no one anticipated. Yet knowing what we now know, an extension of the Advisory Committee's term is clearly a matter deserving special consideration by the White House. The Advisory Committee has been charged with an enormous moral responsibility to sort out what happened so that Americans can face the truth and learn from it, and the government that encouraged and countenanced these acts can, if and when appropriate, make amends.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
Representative



Steve Chabot
Representative



Chris Smith
Representative



OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST

March 29, 1995

Phillip Caplan
Special Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs
The White House

Dear Mr. Caplan,

Thank you very much for acknowledging the work of Dr. Jonathan Moreno as staff member of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

I was very pleased to receive from you the copy of the committee's Interim Report. The issues the committee deals with are of great concern to everyone in the health care field. We are proud that a member of the SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn is an active participant in our government's reexamination of ethical and scientific criteria applied to radiation experiments carried out on humans.

With best wishes,

JoAnn Bradley, Ed.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn

cc: Russell L. Miller, M.D., President, SUNY HSC at Brooklyn
Jonathan Moreno, Ph.D., Director, Division of Humanities in Medicine, SUNY HSC at Brooklyn

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS

1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20036

202-254-9795 (Phone)

202-254-9827 (Fax)

FAX TRANSMITTALNUMBER OF PAGES (including cover): 2

TO:

Phil Caplan

FROM:

Don Bottoman

DATE:

4/3

RE:

If there are any problems with the transmission of this fax, please call 202-254-9795.

MESSAGE:

NCRV/SSI/ECB

5137323196

301 891 3892;# 2

301 891 3992

03/95 09:31

Xerox Telecopier 7020 :12-84-80 : 7:15AM :

Portman: Extend radiation report

BY PAUL BARTON

Enquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Rob Portman said Thursday he'll join the families of those used in human radiation experiments in requesting that a White House panel reviewing their cases take a little longer to do its job.

The federal Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments is readying a final report on Cold War radiation experiments, including those that took place at the University of Cincinnati from 1960-71.

A report may come as early as mid-May or as late as June 20, said

Steve Klaidman, spokesman for the panel.

Portman, R-Cincinnati, said he will support the request of the Cincinnati group Concerned Relatives of Cancer Study Patients for the panel to take "an extra month or two" and make sure it has adequately absorbed information gathered around the country.

Other radiation patient groups also have called for an extension.

"My approach all along is I want to be damn sure the study is comprehensive and credible," Portman said.

The quality of the report will go a long way in determining whether Congress will compensate those

used in government-directed research or their families; he said.

"The advisory committee report in my mind is going to be the single most important aspect of this entire process," he said.

When asked about the extension request, Klaidman said, "I'm sure the committee will consider. I can't predict what their response will be."

The panel, appointed by President Clinton, began last April to review Cold War radiation experiments and determine the government's responsibility in them and the need for possible compensation. It was supposed to complete its work within a year.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1995

Fallout Risk Near Atom Tests Was Known

By PHILIP J. HILTS

WASHINGTON, March 14 — The United States military knew there were serious health risks of radioactive fallout from nuclear bomb testing in 1951 and, though a safer site was available, chose to explode weapons near populated areas in Nevada to get better data on where the fallout would go, according to documents uncovered by the President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The documents, obtained from the files of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, show that when military officials were planning a series of ground tests of nuclear bombs in the early 1950's, they debated extensively about whether it was safe for people who lived near the test sites in Nevada.

"The officials determined it was probably not safe, but went ahead anyway," said Patrick Fitzgerald, a research analyst from Louisiana State University who is among several dozen specialists working for the advisory committee.

The Nevada Test Site, where the explosions occurred, is 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas and as close as 25 miles from smaller towns. Among the nearby towns are Alamo, Caliente and Amargosa Valley.

The Presidential panel is charged with studying documents relating to all the Government-sponsored experiments in which radiation was used on humans, beginning in 1945.

The committee is expected to issue a full report later this year.

One of the documents that the committee plans to release on Wednesday includes a memoran-

dum, dated May 22, 1951, about a meeting to discuss safety issues for three planned nuclear explosions that would be the first intentional "surface bursts," causing craters and much fallout.

The memorandum quotes Shields Warren, director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission, as saying:

"I would almost say from the discussion thus far that in the light of

On radioactive fallout: 'We should take some risk.'

the size and activity of some of these particles, their unpredictability of fall-out, the possibility of external beta burns, is quite real."

Committee members then decided to take the risk that civilians would be injured, and also that those injuries would cause a public uproar that would prevent them from again using test sites in the United States.

The notes quote Dr. Gioacchino Failla, a civilian scientist from Columbia University who was working for the Atomic Energy Commission,

as telling the committee, "The time has come when we should take some risk and get some information for the future situation. In other words we are faced with a war in which atomic weapons will undoubtedly be used, and we have to have some information about these things."

The committee had first scheduled the three nuclear tests for a much safer site in Alaska, the island of Amchitka. But using that site, the committee noted, would have made it difficult to track the cloud of fallout. In Nevada that was done with jeeps, allowing readings of the cloud's intensity.

The committee also planned at first to evacuate civilians from an area within a 44-mile radius of Ground Zero before the explosion, but later canceled the evacuation.

No explanation for the cancellation appears in the documents, but Dr. Barton Bernstein of Stanford University, an expert on the history of the nuclear weapons program of the era, said in an interview that it was "probably canceled because they feared creating a public panic."

More national news
appears on pages B9, 10.

The New York Times For home delivery call
1-800-631-2500



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS
1726 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

February 28, 1995

Ms. Diana Zuckerman
Office of the First Lady
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Diana:

As discussed, I enclose examples of the press coverage of the Committee, including:

1. A recent Sunday editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle, which focuses on the importance of the Committee's look towards the future of health research as well as its past. (Other recent editorials include the Tampa Tribune and the Deseret News)
2. A front page New York Times article, which notes that the "Committee has brought to light a wealth of documents about the Government's behavior--sometimes furtive, sometimes ethical--that will force historians to rewrite part of the history of the atomic age."
3. Front page articles from Ohio, Washington State, California, Tennessee and New Mexico papers, regarding field hearings held by the Committee in those states.
4. An article from the Rochester, NY paper, recording the visit of a Committee staff member (in a city where the Committee did not have a field hearing).
5. One of the front page Washington Post articles.
6. Articles on the Committee's discovery of new information about the country's Cold War past.

Please let us know if you would like any further information.

Very truly yours,

Dan Guttman

enc.

Radiation

EDITORIALS

Radiation Investigation Serves Past and Future

DOCUMENT BY DOCUMENT, individual story by individual story, the White House Advisory Committee on Radiation Experiments is bringing to light the extent of government-sanctioned radiation and nuclear tests between 1944 and 1974.

Just last week, the committee uncovered reports detailing a 1950s international campaign of deception aimed at hiding the fact that the U.S. government gathered human remains and other data to measure fallout from U.S. atomic weapons tests.

"We want to be able to say, 'You don't have to worry about surreptitious experiments' "

In its 10 months of existence, through hearings and reviews of hundreds of thousands of documents — many of them previously classified — the presidential panel has compiled examples of questionable radiation experiments on humans, both with and without their consent.

A middle-aged woman testified about being pulled out of her second-grade class in Richland, Wash. — where her father worked at the country's main plutonium site — to be given unidentified liquids to drink. She was required to make follow-up doctor visits for the next six years. Service personnel told of seeing the shadow of their bones when they were exposed to Cold War atomic-bomb tests. Former inmates recounted 1960s experiments in which their testicles were deliberately exposed to strong doses of radiation.

The 13-member committee — made up of experts in bioethics, radiation oncology

and biology, history of science and medicine, epidemiology, nuclear medicine and law — is drafting a report, due in May, with an eye toward determining possible compensation, medical follow-up or remedies to people who were victims of past government radiation experiments.

But equally important, the scientists are focusing on the future. Included in the panel's report will be recommendations for an ethics policy for current and future government research experiments based on lessons learned from the Cold War tests as well as from studies of current radiation-related experiments.

"We want the area of radiation therapy to advance," said Dr. Ruth Faden, committee chairwoman and a bioethicist at Johns Hopkins University. "We want to be able to say to the American public, 'When you go into a hospital, you don't have to worry about surreptitious experiments being done.'"

The questions for which the panel sought answers on U.S. action in the three decades following the dawn of the Atomic Age — What ethics criteria were used to evaluate human radiation experiments? What codes of conduct, if any, existed to govern federally sponsored experiments? Who developed them? How were they put into effect? — still apply today, despite more rigorous standards.

Right now, experiments are being conducted that may one day spell the end of certain kinds of cancer or cure other diseases. Both science and humanity will be served if those who take part in such experiments enjoy the peace of mind that comes with the knowledge that they are part of a scientific test being performed in an atmosphere of the highest ethical standards. The committee could make a significant contribution toward that goal.

October 13, 1994

The New York Times

Panel Finds Wide Debate in 40's On the Ethics of Radiation Tests

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Sent to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 — In the early years of the cold war, a systematic effort to gain knowledge of the effects of radiation from experiments on human subjects was secretly planned at the highest levels of the United States Government. The number of experiments was some 10 times larger than known until now, but there was also more discussion than expected on the ethics of experimentation.

That is the outline of the complex picture being developed by the President's Committee on Human Radiation Experiments after six months of sifting through the archives of a dozen Federal agencies. The committee has brought to light a wealth of documents about the Government's behavior — sometimes furtive, sometimes ethical — that will force historians to rewrite part of the history of the dawn of the atomic age.

In particular, the advisory committee has traced the almost continual jostling between the military's desire for data on radiation and the ethical scruples of some senior officials. Since no clear operating policy emerged, the result was that some ethically dubious experiments were

discouraged or disapproved, while others went ahead.

Last year, after The Albuquerque Tribune reported on a group of patients given high doses of radiation treatment for largely experimental purposes, Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary responded by promising to open her agency's files, and President Clinton later ordered the committee to make a detailed inquiry into the experiments.

The Tribune article and the previous instances of unethical radiation experiments disclosed by Representative Edward J. Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, at Congressional hearings in 1986 suggested that a thorough search would extend the litany of horrific stories. They also raised questions as to what ethical guidelines, if any, had governed the experiments, and at what point in the Government the research program had been directed.

Dr. Ruth Faden, an ethicist at Johns Hopkins University who is the chairwoman of the committee, said: "Did we find new horror stories? Well, we know now that much more

Continued on Page A12, Column 1

Continued From Page A1

experimental work was done than anyone guessed."

While the radiation doses received by subjects in most cases were not large, at the time the hazards of low levels of radiation were not known, and consent was not usually sought.

But Dr. Faden did express surprise at the apparent deliberateness of the decision making. "Frankly, we did not believe before we started this that there was much debate and planning done in connection with these experiments," she said. "But there was, and it was at a high level of the military and scientific establishment."

"That is not to say what the motive was for these ethical discussions — whether it was high-minded moral reasons, or legal reasons or public relations reasons — but in any case there was an awareness at high levels that one could not proceed in the area of radiation and human experiments just casually. They took it seriously."

Serious Talk About Need for Data

Dr. Faden said that from the level of Secretary of Defense on down through the secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, there was serious discussion of the military's need for information about how dangerous radiation was to troops, how soldiers might react to it and what precautions were needed. The question was how to get that information, and how often were human experiments necessary.

"We are now piecing together the story of the past, an unsuspected past, to help inform the future on these questions," she said.

Among the papers unearthed by the committee are documents that show experiments were debated, planned and carried out in a layer of atomic medical bureaucracy by half a dozen secret committees, which staff members estimate will in-

crease the number of known experiments at least tenfold, to about 600. Most experiments involved exposing troops to varying amounts of radiation, usually without informing them of the risks or seeking their consent.

At the time, the documents suggest, being the subject of experiments was counted as one of the expected hazards of military life and training — not unlike subjecting soldiers to live fire in training exercises — and was not considered to be human experimentation.

The committee also found that, contrary to the belief that there was little debate about the ethics of such experimentation in the 1950's, Army ethical guidelines written in 1953 were in fact far stricter than the current rules.

But the rules — a nearly verbatim copy of the Nuremberg Code, a set of ethical principles that came out of the Nuremberg trials after World War II — did not become operating guidelines, apparently because they were declared top secret.

One of the most important bits of history found in the hundreds of thousands of documents so far received by the committee, Dr. Faden said, is that a fixture of current ethical debates — whether it is possible to offer a patient honest treatment and experiment on him at the same time — appears to have been a consideration in even the earliest documents of cold war experiments.

An Atomic Energy Commission memorandum dated April 17, 1947, recommends that human experimentation not be made public. "It is desired that no document be released which refers to experiments with humans and might have an adverse effect on public opinion or result in legal suits," it says. "Documents covering such work in this field should be classified 'secret.'" The memorandum was also classified secret.

Seeking Tests On Human Beings

In the fall of 1947 the A.E.C., which

later became the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, established a division of biology and medicine and the Advisory Committee on Biology and Medicine, made up of outside experts to consider future human and animal experimentation.

Ten years earlier, 18 patients — the subjects of The Albuquerque Tribune article — were injected with plutonium to help track its course in the body. The committee has found that in 1947 the military proposed that more systematic studies be conducted. While this was disapproved, some individual experiments, including the injection of radioactive material into humans, continued in June and July 1947.

AEC repeated requests from the military and private researchers to

conduct radiation experiments on humans, Dr. Shields Warren, the chief medical officer of the AEC, said in July 1949 that he was "taking an increasingly dim view of human experimentation."

The debate continued on one track, but so did the experiments on another, in the absence of firm policy to the contrary.

In 1949 a group called the Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare was created to oversee the atomic-related research in the Defense Department. In the minutes of a meeting of the panel, it was noted that if ethical rules were adopted, "then obviously a great deal of our present human tracer studies must be discontinued." Tracer studies involve injecting minute amounts of radioactive chemical to

track the biochemical pathways of the chemical's metabolism in the body.

The minutes also noted that there were "ethical and medico-legal objections to the administration of radioactive materials without the patient's knowledge or consent." And it said there would be a greater culpability of the Government "if a Federal agency condones human guinea pig experimentation."

The Defense Department tried to initiate experiments using atomic isotopes to conduct total-body irradiation experiments on healthy human subjects. Officials of the A.E.C., chiefly Dr. Warren, protested, but soon relented.

Since the A.E.C. controlled the supply of radioactive materials, Dr. Warren was apparently able to block some of the worst experiments, which called for total body irradiation of healthy subjects.

But some researchers were able to get around the commission's objections. Hundreds of people were irradiated, primarily at universities, by using cancer patients who presumably might have benefited, or at least whose lives would not be greatly shortened by the experiments.

By 1951, it was clear to the military and their medical establishment that it would be necessary to answer in detail many questions about the effects of radiation on humans, and that soldiers would have to be used at the gun line.

In September 1951, the Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare prepared a memorandum saying that there were numerous reasons to conduct human experiments in atomic bomb explosions, and later documents show that at least four of the human experiments mentioned were carried out.

Using 'Volunteers' In the Military

Among the problems that required experiments on humans, the panel said, were whether atomic explosion caused changes in visual acuity or light-blindness, whether radiation from the explosions could be measured in the body fluids of people near such blasts, whether any psychologi-

cal damage might come from being near an atomic explosion and whether flight crews would have any important exposure if they flew near a nuclear blast. Each of these experiments was carried out.

One of the experiments, called Operation Upshot-Knothole, included, "Subjecting 12 human volunteers and 700 rabbits to the initial light flash from six atomic detonations to investigate its effect on the visual function of the human eyes and to determine the burn injury processes in the dark-adapted rabbit eye," military records show.

The military's use of the word 'volunteer' did not imply that informed consent was obtained. In essence, the subjects were ordered to participate; they were not always told what the risks would be.

In other experiments, airplanes flew through radioactive clouds. A report on one such test, called Operation Plum Bob, begins, "The objective of this project was to measure the radiation dose, both from neutrons and gamma rays, received by an air crew delivering an MB-1 rocket." Crewmen swallowed radiation film to help measure their exposure.

Another test was designed to see how well soldiers could perform after exposure to the flash of atomic detonations at night. "Human volunteers were dark-adapted in a light-tight trailer approximately 10 miles from the detonation. Their eyes were exposed to the flash. Some eyes were protected by a red filter, and some were unprotected."

The notes on the experiment said, "The project was terminated after Shot 4 in order to evaluate the significance of lesions of the retina which were produced in two of the subjects."

About 42 officers were included in a "selected volunteer program" in which they watched an atomic blast from 2,000 yards away. In other experiments, troops were brought to within 5,000 or 7,000 yards of ground zero to watch atomic explosions, and were then marched to the site of the explosion just after the bomb had gone off.

It is not yet known what happened to the subjects of these and other experiments.

In February 1953, after eight years of experiments without a consistent set of rules to govern them, Charles E. Wilson, then Secretary of Defense, prepared a memorandum saying that volunteers should be used as the only "feasible means for realistic evaluation and/or development of effective preventive measures of defense against atomic, biological or chemical agents." The memorandum added, "The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential."

It recommended using the Nuremberg Code which, if actually applied, would be stricter than current practices because it required detailed explanations of the hazards of experiments regardless of any claimed benefits, and allowed the subjects to terminate experiments at any moment. But these guidelines remained so highly classified that few if any people below the secretaries of the Army, Navy or Air Force were aware of them.

Staff members of the advisory committee said this created the zen-like question, "What is the effect of adopting ethical guidelines which are then kept top secret?"

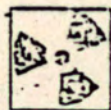
Company News:
Tuesday through Saturday,
Business Day

The New York Times



After sifting through the archives of a dozen Federal agencies, the President's Committee on Human Radiation Experiments has found that the number

of experiments was 10 times larger than previously known. Above are some of the boxes of research materials that members of the panel have inspected.



DEADLY EXPOSURE

Radiation tests could number in thousands

BY LINDA DONO REEVES

The Cincinnati Enquirer

A White House panel investigating human-radiation testing has unearthed indications of more than 1,400 experiments, according to a preliminary report released Friday.

The total "will probably be in the thousands by the time we're finished," Chairwoman Dr. Ruth Fadan told reporters in Washington, on the same day other members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments had a hearing in Cincinnati.

Furthermore, beyond the 13 identified "intentional releases" of radiation that could have threatened civilians and military personnel from 1944-1974, "We now know there were on the order of several hundred intentional releases," Fadan said.

The common thread in the testing extends from Cincinnati's former General Hospital to Fort Meade, Pikeson, Miamishung and into the South Pacific, according to more than 20 people who testified before the panel Friday at the Regal Cincinnati Hotel downtown.

"You hear the same story from different people," said William Cummings of Fort Thomas, who as a Marine in 1962 witnessed eight atomic bomb detonations in the South Pacific. "The government offers no help to veterans who suffer from gradual shutdown of their body systems until they

(Please see RADIATION, Page A1)

Next

The final report from the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, created by President Clinton in January, is due in April. However, the committee has said it may request an extension because the job is proving more complicated than expected. The final report also will explore whether victims of testing should be compensated.

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER • 501,100 READERS DAILY

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 22, 1994

FINAL EDITION/Last •

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

PAGE A1

- over -

Radiation Subjects' Stories Tumble Out

Federal panel brings inquiry to S.F.

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

Israel Torres knelt in a trench one mile from ground zero during a 1957 atomic bomb test in Nevada. Richard Harley crouched on the deck of an escort carrier 30 miles from a 1953 thermonuclear test at the Eniwetok atoll. Emma Craft was one of 829 pregnant women fed radioactive iron beginning in 1945 at a Tennessee hospital.

Their stories, recounted in a public hearing in San Francisco yesterday, are part of the official record being assembled by the President's Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the federal panel making a detailed inquiry into tests conducted on people over a 50-year period at scores of

"S. sites around the world.

The panel was appointed by President Clinton to determine the government's responsibility for harm to human subjects as a result of experiments with radiation. Its first meeting outside Washington underscored the daunting task the committee faces in piecing together the scattered and perhaps most secretive segments of the Atomic Age.

Although many of the victims have detailed memories of their involvement in experiments, in many cases there is no written record of the tests; others are still classified by the federal government for national security reasons. Incredibly, it appears that in some cases the children of military per-

sonnel were volunteered by their parents for inclusion in experiments that were neither defined nor concluded.

"I just want to get some answers, and that's why I'm here today," Darcy Thrall told the panel at the San Francisco Press Club yesterday. "I want to know what's been done to me and what I can expect to happen ... whether I have five years or 35 years to live."

Thrall's father worked at the Hanford weapons plant in southeastern Washington state, the country's main plutonium production site. She told the panel she was pulled out of her second-grade class in Richland, told to drink some liquids and then monitored periodically by doctors for the next six years. She wore government-issue dog tags for years, but to this day she does not know the reason for the experiment or whether it was responsible for the numerous health problems she has suffered, including hypothyroidism and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Panel members believe that as many as 600 tests may have been conducted on U.S. citizens.

"At our core, we are an ethics committee," said panel chairwoman Dr. Ruth Faden, a bioethicist at Johns Hopkins University. "We are very keen to hear from everyone who thinks they have something to help us with our charge, including the ethics of the work being conducted, whether any government agencies were responsible, and to come up with remedies and recommendations to address this problem."

The panel includes radiation experts, public health specialists, an epidemiologist, a historian and

a lawyer. Members have searched through hundreds of thousands of documents related to human experiments and have found records from several military committees that discussed the need for radiation data — and secrecy — beginning in the late 1940s.

In 1949, two years after the Atomic Energy Commission established a medical division to consider human and animal experiments, 18 patients were injected with plutonium to help track its path through the human body. The patients were the subject of a series of stories published by the Albuquerque Tribune last year that ultimately led Clinton to reestablish the committee.

The secret "Atomic Medicine Division" of the Veterans Administration may have been involved in exposing U.S. service personnel to radiation during post-World War II atomic-bomb tests and assessing

the effects. Yesterday, two of the men involved in those tests testified before the panel.

Torres, then a 23-year-old Marine platoon sergeant, was ordered to lead a battalion into a trench at Yucca Flat, Nev., in 1957, where they were told to kneel during the detonation of a weapon, nicknamed "Hood." He said that when the shock wave from the blast hit, the trench began to collapse and the wind nearly sucked them out into the open desert.

"The light was so bright I had to cover my eyes with my hands, and I immediately got blisters from the heat," said Torres, who lives in a small central coast town in California. Then the trucks and equipment started showing up, and I was placed in a van and taken to a hospital" for a number of lengthy and painful tests.

"All I ask of you is the truth."

Page 1 CONTINUED
of 2

Page One

The San Francisco Chronicle

October 13, 1994

57

200 4452:18 75. 71 100

Yage 2 + 2 Radiation

CONTINUED



BY LIA BAKER/THE CHRONICLE

Darcy Thrall read to a government panel from the dog tags he was given as a 7-year-old participant in a radiation experiment

Torres said. "All I ask is for justice for any of the people who died due to this stupidity."

Harley, who was aboard a U.S. naval ship assigned to the Marshall Islands, said he was part of a group of men told to squat on deck during one of the 66 known nuclear tests conducted near the Marshall Islands from 1947 to 1958.

"We were told that any personnel who were to be witnesses should bend down with their backs to ground zero and to remain in that position," he said. "The brightness from the blast was so great that I could actually see the shadow of my bone through my arm."

The very existence of the atomic-medicine unit had been kept secret because of Veterans Administration concerns about disability claims. Numerous victims, and spouses of the victims, have said that their claims have continued to be rejected by the government.

Craft's story, as relayed by her lawyer, Don Arbitlt of San Francisco, is the subject of a class-action lawsuit filed against Vanderbilt Hospital in Tennessee and the federal government. She was one of 829 pregnant women given radioactive iron during a two-year study.

It was only in the 1979 publication of a follow-up study in an obscure medical journal that Craft discovered she was one of those included in the study. The story detailed the death of her 11-year-old daughter, who died of a rare form of cancer.

"Her daughter suffered a slow, painful, gruesome death, and Emma always believed it was due to an act of God," Arbitlt said. "It wasn't until much after that she believed that this tragedy was due to intervention by humankind."

'My skin crawled in horror'

The grandson of Albert Stevens calls the plutonium tests 'crimes against humanity' during a hearing in Santa Fe.

By Ed Asher
and Dennis Domrzalski
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

SANTA FE -- Bill Holmes doesn't like to remember his grandfather as a victim.

"I want to remember him as someone who conquered in the end, someone who did survive despite everything that was done to him," he says.

But Holmes has to admit that his grandfather, Albert Stevens, was a victim.

Stevens was one of 18 Americans



STEPHEN KLADMAN, a member of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, takes testimony from Laguna Pueblo resident Curtis Francisco. Pueblo and Navajo uranium miners say they weren't told of the dangers of radiation.

unwittingly injected with plutonium in government-sponsored radiation experiments in the late 1940s.

His grandson was one of about 50

people who spoke Monday before a three-member panel of the President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, which was meeting

for the day in Santa Fe.

Holmes told the committee that government-paid scientists treated his grandfather like a laboratory rat and valued their own careers more than the lives of the human subjects they experimented on.

Stevens, a Northern California house painter, was 58 years old when he was injected with plutonium. He lived for almost 21 more years.

On Monday, Holmes, 53, told the committee that those responsible for the experiments must be held accountable for what he calls "crimes against humanity."

"If the consequences for such crimes against humanity are small, then the crimes themselves will be regarded as small and petty and not worth worrying about," he said.

The 14-member committee was appointed by President Clinton in April 1994 to investigate the use of humans in federally financed radiation

Please see **HEARINGS/A6**

experiments starting in the 1940s.

The committee is to recommend remedies for abuses suffered by human subjects and policies to improve ethical practices in today's research. Its report will be issued this spring.

Holmes, of Folsom, Calif., told the panel on Monday that he remembers his grandfather as man who did very little outdoors.

"He was not able to be very active at all," Holmes said.

"He was obviously very sick. He walked around in sort of a shuffle. He could only eat small amounts. He didn't move like a healthy person."

But it wasn't until around November 1993 that Holmes says he discovered the reason for his grandfather's illness. That's about the time he read an article about the plutonium exper-

iments in a Northern California newspaper.

Since then, he has read documents that the Department of Energy released about the plutonium injections and has followed the continuing media coverage on the experiments.

"I remember my skin crawling in horror and I was shaking all over as I watched a tape made of a C-SPAN news coverage of testimony about this," he said.

"And I listened to the list of things that were removed from my grandfather's insides to be studied for signs of damage from his injection of plutonium.

"It's like I can close my eyes and see all those things they took out of him lined up on a tray.

"I felt a great emptiness inside my-

self after listening to that."

Holmes blasted the scientists who conducted the experiments.

"They tried to cheapen his life by lowering it to the level of a laboratory rat while pretending to themselves that their lives were worth more than his," he said.

"These people placed a higher value on their careers than on the lives of the people they used to advance those careers. They felt like they could wipe their boots on my grandfather's life and get away with it."

Holmes told the committee that steps must be taken to prevent similar human experiments in the future. He suggested that some sort of "acknowledgement" be placed at the sites of the plutonium experiments as a reminder of what happened — perhaps

a plaque with a list of experimenters and their various awards on one side and a list of the people they experimented on and what was done to them on the other.

"I don't want to clog up my heart with feelings of revenge," he said. "But my head tells me that without some personal accountability for these actions, the message will remain very clear to those involved in human experimentation: that if you have a dirty little secret and you can keep it hidden long enough with the help of your colleagues and government, then you have nothing to worry about. ..."

Nightmares of the atomic age

Residents tell White House panel of experiments that they believe led to disease, death

By Karen Dorn Steele
Staff writer

They called themselves casualties of the Cold War.

They traveled miles of icy highways to tell their stories of pain and poor health to a White House panel investigating human radiation experiments in the dawn of the atomic age.

Dozens of angry people spoke to

four doctors and professors from the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments meeting in Spokane on Monday.

U.S. Department of Energy officials admitted in 1990 that Hanford's radiation releases during the Cold War were large enough to cause increased health risks. The link between Hanford and disease is still being studied.

Inside

Prisoners seek compensation.
/A6

Mesa farmer Tom Bailie spoke of the "death mile," a stretch of rural homesteads in the shadow of Hanford where every one of his neighbors has cancer or thyroid disease.

Brenda Weaver of Spokane, who lived in the "death mile" as a child, talked of deformed sheep at her family's farm and men from Hanford who combed the fields with Geiger counters. She spoke of her daughter, Jamie, who was born in 1965 with no eyes.

Gertie Hansen of Coeur d'Alene told of the thyroid illness that struck

Continued: **Experiments/A10**



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review

■ Harold Bibeau describes radiation experiments performed on him.

Experiments: Stories told about radiation effects

Continued from A1

half the girls in her high school class, and the death of her husband from cancer at age 36.

Trisha Pritikin of Berkeley, Calif., recalled her childhood in the Tri-Cities, and the thyroid disease and chronic fatigue she copes with as an adult.

"I'm the daughter of a Hanford worker. There was no way I could have given informed consent" to radiation emissions from Hanford, Pritikin said.

Kay Sutherland of Walla Walla mourned two infants who lived only hours. She spoke quietly of the four other miscarriages she suffered while Hanford's plutonium factories spewed radiation into the air and the Columbia River.

"We were used for experiments without our knowledge or consent," Sutherland said.

Harold Bibeau, a former prisoner in Oregon, recalled the pain and worry he felt after his testicles were bombarded with X-rays in a government-funded experiment when he was 23.

The Atomic Energy Commission had planned to track the prisoners to make sure they didn't develop health problems, but the plans were dropped.

"They cut us off with nothing to show for our efforts except \$100 and a lot of pain," Bibeau told the radiation panel.

Leonard Schroeter, a Seattle attorney who covered as a military reporter the Nuremberg war crimes trials in the '40s, said the U.S. government's human radiation experiments were as evil as Nazi atrocities.

"Criminal statutes were violated by researchers and physicians. Your job is not only to call attention to that, but to suggest appropriate responses," Schroeter told the panel.

It will be important for the White House to admit criminal acts were committed and to provide victims with compensation, Schroeter said.



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review

■ Gerlie Hansen of Coeur d'Alene testifies Monday on radiation exposure.

Schroeter said he isn't saying individuals should be prosecuted, but the government should acknowledge that the researchers conducting human experiments were acting as agents of official policy.

Committee members told their audience that they were there mostly to listen.

They probed gently for documentation that could back up the stories. They praised nervous people for coming forward.

"We are very sensitive to the hurt and pain of many people," said Dr. Reed Tuckson, president of Charles Drew University of Medicine in Los Angeles.

"What we hear the most in these hearings is a loss of trust" in the government, he said.

Panelists offered some comments on the direction of their work, which is about half finished.

The committee plans to push for complete declassifica-

tion of all documents related to the Green Run, the 1949 military experiment at Hanford that released a huge cloud of radiation over Eastern Washington with no public warning.

Allen Conklin, Washington state's top radiation protection official, said he has a security clearance and has read the classified versions of the Green Run report.

"Are there compelling national security reasons to keep this secret?" asked Duncan Thomas, a University of Southern California medical school professor.

"In my opinion, no," Conklin replied.

The 14-member advisory committee group was appointed by President Clinton this year to investigate radiation experiments and deliberate radiation releases during the Cold War.

The committee will write a final report next year on the ethical implications of the research.

Radiation: Thousands may be victims

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

die. And their family loses everything."

He was diagnosed in 1990 with multiple myeloma, a type of blood and bone cancer that can be caused by excessive exposure to X rays.

Richard Casey of Fort Thomas, who retired from the Air Force in 1978, said he suffers health problems because he took part in cleanup of the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific.

At Fikeon, home of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, former workers and neighbors of the facility about 80 miles east of Cincinnati talked of releases of radioactive gases, storage of highly radioactive mixed wastes on site and accidents involving workers.

"I got so contaminated that I spent four days in the showers ... scrubbing me down with borax and I turned lobster red," said Owen Thompson, who lives near Fikeon.

For 14 years the Rarden resident worked in the special team that handled problems at the facility that now enriches uranium for nuclear-power plants. Since 1986, he has had two malignant brain tumors. He developed a tumor on each knee, he said, from crawling through radioactive spaces to check on malfunctioning valves.

"I'm just a dumb hillbilly, big and strong. That's what they were looking for," he said. "I would do anything they told me."

That's what the government was counting on, said Gene Branham, vice president of the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council Workers at Fernald, a former uranium-processing plant 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati, who died had their bodies taken to the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries in Richland, Wash.

Tissue samples were examined, but results weren't released, he said. And families who had hoped to give their relatives a decent burial were left without a body or an explanation.

"The Department of Energy did all this without the informed consent of workers and any surviving spouses," he said. "And it's still going on today."

At Mariusburg, 45 miles north of Cincinnati, Branham told of thorium, plutonium, tritium and bismuth contamination of at least one Mound worker who died in 1967. He and other union leaders kept the body of 45-year-old B.J. Carpenter of Carlisle away from the government. At Carpenter's request, they had his body autopsied, looking specifically for radiation problems. The autopsy was performed in Canada.

Fernald officials knew radiation contamination was in Lisa Crawford's drinking water for four years before they told her family, said Crawford of Crosby Township, president of Fernald residents for Environmental Safety and Health. Her family's well is now shut down.

In Covington, at what used to be General Hospital, indigent cancer patients were receiving high doses of radiation — all without informed consent — 11 relatives told the panel in emotional testimony.

"My mother had a very distinctive handwriting," said Herb Varin of Price Hill, whose mother, Anna Chue, was patient No. 075 in tests from 1960 to 1971 at what is now University Hospital. "I could show you a consent form (that I've found in her medical records). I've looked at it, and she didn't sign it."

Fadzn said that despite progress in unearthing documentation on the clandestine tests, the committee faces "significant roadblocks" in gaining access to secret documents at the U.S. departments of Energy and Defense.

Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

1949 radiation release linked to Tennessee experiment

Oak Ridge also created dangerous clouds

©Copyright 1994, The Spokesman-Review

By Karen Dorn Steele
Staff writer

Hanford's Green Run wasn't an isolated test, according to information newly declassified by the U.S. Air Force.

The military experiment that spewed a danger-

ous radiation cloud over Eastern Washington on Dec. 2, 1949, was linked to a similar test at the government's Oak Ridge, Tenn., nuclear plant.

The new information reveals that 140 "slugs" of irradiated nuclear fuel from Hanford were used for the Oak Ridge test several months before the Green Run.

Although it has been known for two years that the Air Force tracked radiation clouds at Oak Ridge, it was not known the releases were deliberate, or that they involved fuel made at

Hanford.

The tests were conducted to give the Air Force "experience in following ... a cloud of radioactive material," according to newly released sections of a 1950 Hanford report.

In both tests, heavy clouds of radioactive iodine 131 from the weapons facilities were ejected without public warning.

Continued: **Hanford/A16**

Radiation probe taps local group

By SHIRLEY SALEMY
STAFF WRITER

Victims' relatives to inform feds

A staff member of the presidential panel investigating Cold War radiation experiments on humans will meet today with a Rochester-area support group to gather information.

Patricin Parentesis of President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments will interview members of the local group to supplement the documents the committee already has, said Lanny Keller, the committee

spokesman.

"This is one of many sources of information we have about experiments," Keller said.

The Rochester Radiation Victims Survivors Group is made up of relatives of individuals injected with plutonium at Strong Memorial Hospital. It meets once a month to share information about the issue, said its founder, Jerry Mouso.

"Any light we can shed on this situation is important," Mouso

said.

The 14-member presidential committee of experts in the areas of bioethics, epidemiology, law and nuclear medicine was appointed last year.

The committee's charter includes the investigation of experiments conducted since 1942 with ionizing radiation and the investigation of specific intentional releases of radiation into the environment. The committee also will recommend

remedies for abuses of human subjects in past experiments and policies to improve ethical practices in research.

Keller said Parentesis will ask whether individuals consented to be involved in the experiments, whether they understood what was being done and what the purpose of the experiments was.

"We've heard from people from every corner of this country," Keller said.

Eleven Rochester-area patients at Strong were injected with plutonium in 1945 and 1946. □

Study of radiation experiments continues

Investigator hears area families' stories

By CORYDON IRELAND
STAFF WRITER

Stories the medical records can't tell — that's what federal radiation investigator Patricia J. Perentesis was after in Mendon yesterday.

She spent the day at a private house in this rural suburb interviewing members of six Rochester-area families whose mothers, fathers and uncles — now all dead — were injected with plutonium during a federal Cold War radiation experiment 50 years ago.

Three months ago, the families formed the Rochester Radiation Victims Survivors Group, now part of the Task Force on Radiation and Human Rights, a national association of 24 groups representing radiation experiment victims and their surviving families.

"The biggest thing is to give the most open, complete story all the way around," said Perentesis, a consultant with President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.



DAN LOH staff photographer

Radiation reports Patricia Perentesis, a government investigator, speaks to Rochester Radiation Victims Survivors Group yesterday.

The committee, after a year of meetings and research, will unveil a "thick," multivolume report on April 23, she said.

"The main object is to clear out all the secrecy."

The committee's mission: to investigate Cold War radiation experiments on humans, suggest remedies for victims and recommend

ethics guidelines for future research.

Eleven patients at a Strong Memorial Hospital metabolism unit during 1945 and 1946 were unwittingly injected with plutonium, a radioactive substance used to make atomic bombs.

The experiment also involved seven other patients in three other U.S. hospitals. It was intended to

establish radiation exposure standards workers.

Yesterday's face-to-face interviews may answer questions that decades-old medical charts and laboratory results cannot, said Perentesis, a registered nurse and nuclear medicine technician. Included: what chronic physical complaints the patients may have suffered after the injections.

"The families here have been cheated, one way or another," said Milton Stadt, a retired Kodak machinist from Victor, whose mother, Janet, was injected in 1946. "Everyone here is a victim."

Children whose parents may have been sickened by the injections, he said, were deprived of economic opportunity because their parents' incomes were limited by sickness. Children were also deprived of their parents' time, energy and attention.

Perentesis said her own feelings about the experiments are "mixed."

"There was definitely information retrieved. It was beneficial to everyone," she said.

"I'm not saying it was right or wrong, but (researchers) definitely garnered information that was not wasted." □

Prisoner Irradiation Probed

Tests Were Among Riskiest of Cold War Era

By Gary Lee

Washington Post Staff Writer

A1

PORTLAND, Ore.—On Sept. 29, 1965, Harold Bibeau walked out of his cell at Oregon State Prison and onto center stage in one of the darker dramas of American Cold War history.

Summoned to a prison laboratory, the 23-year-old inmate lay down in a coffin-like box and lowered his testicles into water. Then, researchers deliberately exposed them to a dose of radiation stronger than 20 modern diagnostic X-rays would give.

The experiments were part of a decade-long research project in the 1960s and 1970s, using prison inmates here and in Washington state. Funded by the Atomic Energy Commission, forerunner of the Department of Energy, and followed with interest by scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the tests were designed to help determine how much radiation U.S. astronauts could bear during spaceflights, according to federal officials familiar with them.

In all, testicles of more than 130 prisoners in the two states were irradiated. Participation was voluntary, and the prisoners received small stipends and other cash payments for undergoing the tests but, today, some of the former inmates say they were unaware of the long-term risks.

The experiments have drawn some attention in the past, in a lawsuit by 20 former prisoners in 1976 and in a 1986 congressional study. But detailed information about the experiments was buried until recently in classified documents and confidential papers. This report is based on interviews with surviving participants, prison officials and medical researchers, as well as federal records.

On Monday, in an attempt to shed further light on the prisoner studies, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, appointed by the White House, is scheduled to hold a field hearing in Spokane,

Wash. The 14-member committee, appointed after Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary brought the issue of federal radiation tests on humans to national attention last year, is charged with determining whether financial compensation, medical tests or other kinds of follow-up should be given to participants.

Of the hundreds of federally sponsored Cold War research projects involving deliberate human exposure to radiation, including a series involving retarded children in Boston and another using aborted fetuses in Chicago, the prisoner studies stand out as some of the most shocking. The testicles are especially sensitive to radiation damage because they contain rapidly dividing cells that produce sperm.

Damage to chromosomes in the cells of a man's testicles can cause infertility, raise the risk of testicular cancer and increase the chances his children will have birth defects.

Using an X-ray device, researchers beamed varying doses of radiation on the prisoners' testicles. They later took biopsies to determine the effect of the irradiation. An article published in a scientific journal by researchers who conducted the tests said some of the prisoners were exposed to much as 640 rads, a potentially fatal amount if spread over the whole body.

Bibeau's dose was 18½ rads; an average modern X-ray ranges between 0.1 and 1 rad.

The Washington state experiments were halted in 1970, and the Oregon experiments ended in 1973. As details have emerged, a handful of surviving participants have come forward with a list of medical problems, including prostate cancer, loss of vision and vascular diseases, some of which may have resulted from the experiments.

Phillip King, 54, who took part in the tests in 1969 as a state prison inmate in Salem, Ore., complains of groin pains so severe he sometimes has trouble sitting down. Robert Garrison, 54, another former Oregon inmate who recalls repeated radiation exposures over several weeks in the late 1960s, said he has

had persistent rashes and a painful lump on his testicles. Bibeau reports humps on his upper thigh and back. Another participant reported one of his testicles became attached to his scrotum as a result of one of the biopsies.

The participants also express anger about their use as guinea pigs and the lack of adequate medical follow-up.

"We can be blamed for being duped, but nobody ever sat us down and explained what the tests were all about and what the complications were," Garrison said. "But worst of all is the deceit that we've been subjected to afterwards. I can't even get a doctor to diagnose my problems, let alone give me treatment for them. I shouldn't have to scream to get some kind of results. I'm a human being too."

"I took part in the tests and now I'm in a lot of pain," said King, who works at odd jobs in Portland. "I don't know what I'm owed, but I think I'm owed something."

Some of the prisoners have also experienced psychological problems, said Catherine Knox, director of health services for Oregon's Department of Correction. "Apparently, no one thought about the effect it would have on prisoners to have their testicles irradiated," she said. As a result, "some have had questions about their sexual orientation," she added.

Most of the former prisoners interviewed have worked to establish new lives and to steer clear of further trouble with the law. Bibeau is married and has a 10-year-old son. Garrison, originally jailed for armed assault, is a grandfather who runs his home-maintenance business.

They gave various reasons for volunteering for the experiments. For Hill, it was a chance to earn extra cash.

Besides the \$5-a-month stipend, participants received extra cash for biopsies and for undergoing a vasectomy, recommended by researchers to prevent them from having children because of the risk of birth defects from their radiation exposure.

For Bibeau, a former public defender, it was a chance to perform his duty. "I was just told that it was a way to serve my country, even though I was in prison," he said. "And I bought it."

CONTINUED

The experiments involving prisoners in radiation tests—and other research using mental patients, members of racial minorities, pregnant women and other vulnerable subgroups of the American population—have raised questions about the ethical standards used by researchers at the time.

"A reasonable person looking at the experiments now would conclude that they were ethically wrong," said John Fletcher, a professor of biomedical ethics at the University of Virginia Medical School. "At that time, however, the ethos among researchers was different," Fletcher said. "It was nationalistic, and well-funded, and there wasn't much scrutiny."

"In order to justify using prisoners, the researchers would have had to make a determination that they are somehow less than human or less important than the general population," said Dianne Bartels, acting director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota. Fletcher pointed out that until the mid-1960s, few rules restricted medical researchers from designing experiments. And it was considered acceptable to subject prisoners, mental patients or members of minority groups to risks that were not imposed on the general population.

Since 1966, all National Institutes of Health-sponsored research projects must be approved in advance by an independent review board. Rules passed in 1978 bar use of prisoners in any medical experiments

that do not benefit them. Because prisoners are a captive population, they are not regarded as being in a position to give informed consent, Fletcher noted. Fletcher, who feels the experiments were wrong even at the time, said, "In today's world, they would not be possible." Convicted of killing a man who tried to molest him in 1963, Bibeau was sentenced to 12 years in an Oregon state prison. In 1964, a fellow prisoner encouraged him to join the radiation program.

Carl G. Heller, a medical researcher at the Pacific Northwest Research Foundation in Seattle, who was one of the developers of the birth control pill, began the radiation program in Oregon in the early 1960s. The brother of Walter W. Heller, top economic adviser to President John F. Kennedy, Heller was well-known in the U.S. medical community. He died in 1982. C. Alvin Paulsen, a researcher at the University of Washington, oversaw parallel experiments in Washington. Paulsen and Mavis Rowley, a former assistant to Heller, declined to be interviewed for this article, or to appear at the federal hearings in Spokane Monday.

More than three decades after his participation, Bibeau, 52, now a designer and draftsman living in Portland, recalls the experiments in detail. He remembers Heller for his persuasive manner and wing-tipped shoes. He recalls the \$5-a-month stipend he received was spent on cigarettes, razors and candy. Above all, Bibeau recounts in detail the burning sensation he felt in his groin after receiving the radiation. "It was warm down there," he said, "like I had been laying out in the sun for too long."

Bibeau and other participants were asked to provide urine and semen samples to the researchers. After the radiation exposure, the subjects were also subjected to regular biopsies.

Bibeau recalls Heller warned him the experiments could result in "a burning feeling" for a couple of days and told him it was possible there might be "chromosomal complications." Bibeau had a vasectomy on Heller's recommendation. When he eventually married and wanted children, his wife underwent artificial insemination. "To this day I have no idea what chromosomal complications are," Bibeau said. "How can you have informed consent if you don't know what's happening to you?"

In a 1976 deposition for a lawsuit brought by some Oregon inmates who took part in the experiments, Heller testified he "discussed the possibility of radiation burn to the skin of the scrotum, and ... discussed the probability of chromosomal alterations and therefore, the vasectomy."

He also testified he mentioned "possibility of tumors of the testes. I didn't want to frighten them," Heller said in his testimony, "so I said tumor. I may on occasion have said cancer." A total of about \$6,000 was distributed to prisoners in settling the suit.

About half the 131 participants have died, Knox said. A handful are still imprisoned at both participating institutions. In 1987, the Oregon legislature passed a statute to provide follow-up tests to all survivors of Heller's experiments.

James Ruttenber, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Medical School, designed a protocol for the follow-up work. Ten participants have received checkups, Knox said, but the program has failed to receive funding.

"Time is running out for participants to receive medical attention," Ruttenber said. "For some it may already be too late."

Inquiry Links Test Secrecy To a Cover-up

A Fear of Publicity Is Seen as a Motive

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 — Military and nuclear energy officials were motivated by fear of lawsuits and unfavorable publicity in their decision to keep secret many experiments using radiation on humans, Federal investigators have found.

The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the panel charged with unearthing the history of all government-sponsored experiments in which radiation was used on humans, has found new documents showing that as early as 1947 public relations and legal considerations, not security concerns, were principal motives in the decision of Federal officials to cover up radiation experiments.

In the past six months, the panel has searched out and logged hundreds of thousands of papers on experiments with humans, beginning in 1945 at the dawn of the atomic age.

Until the panel began its work, the experiments were thought to have been scattered incidents, but the documents show that they were part of a plan that was debated and approved at high levels. It was also previously thought that there were only a handful of such experiments, but the panel has found hundreds, from the deliberate release of radiation into the air to the injection of people with radioactive plutonium.

The most recent documents unearthed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee show that officials of the military and the Atomic Energy Commission at first sought to declassify reports of experiments on humans, in accordance with public statements that scientific reports should not be secret.

For example, Dr. Alan Gregg, the chairman of one of the committees that oversaw the human experiments, wrote in May 1947: "A policy of secrecy in science is neither personally courageous nor politically wise. As Lord Acton said, 'Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.'"

But at the same time, C. L. Marshall, a declassification officer with the Atomic Energy Commission, wrote in February 1947 that a scientific paper outlining experiments in which two people were injected with plutonium should not be declassified.

"This document appears to be most dangerous since it describes experiments performed on human subjects, including the actual injection of the metal, plutonium, into the body," he wrote.

He noted that there was no statement in the paper about whether the patients experimented on had given their consent, and concluded: "The experimenters and the employing agencies, including the U.S., have been laid open to a devastating lawsuit, which would, through its attendant publicity, have far-reaching results."

It has long been suspected that legal and public relations concerns helped drive the ethical debate over the experiments on humans, and the advisory committee in recent weeks has found many memorandums substantiating that.

On Oct. 8, 1947, J. C. Franklin, the manager of operations of Oak Ridge, wrote to Carroll L. Wilson, general manager of the atomic agency, "There are a large number of papers which do not violate security but do cause considerable concern to the Atomic Energy Commission insurance branch, and may well compromise the public prestige and best interests of the commission."

He added: "Papers referring to levels of soil and water contamination surrounding Atomic Energy Commission installations, idle speculation on the future genetic effects of radiation and papers dealing with potential process hazards to employees are definitely prejudicial to the best interests of the Government. Every such release is reflected in an increase in insurance claims, increased difficulty in labor relations and adverse public sentiment."

He ordered that any such documents be edited or kept secret.

The advisory committee investigators said that documents so far found that an official as highly placed as Dr. Shields Warren, head of the medical division in Washington, had classified human experiments because of public relations or legal implications.

The investigators said the classification on that basis may have been illegal, but have not yet determined which laws would have governed the classifications carried out in the 1940's.

The advisory committee staff also found documents in which military officials at the Oak Ridge laboratory discussed what to do about workers at the Tennessee-Eastman factory who were experiencing kidney disease and tuberculosis at a higher-than-usual rate.

A memorandum from an engineering officer on July 15, 1945, noted that a kidney disease victim "is unaware of her condition, which now shows up on routine physical check and urinalysis."

New York
Times

Thurs. Dec.
15, 1944
A.26

From the Front Page

Hanford: Spokane's air force base helped monitor radiation cloud

Continued from A1

The Air Force used the two experiments to compare how radioactive gases behaved in the steep valleys of Tennessee and the rolling plains of Eastern Washington.

Previously withheld portions of the report made public Friday also show that:

■ The Galena Army Air Depot, later renamed Fairchild, was directly involved. The base conducted a special weather forecast before the Hanford test and helped monitor the radiation cloud that spread to Spokane and beyond.

■ A weekend was chosen for the test "in order to minimize the number of people in the area during and immediately after" the Hanford test, called the Green Run.

■ General Electric Co., the contractor who ran Hanford for the government after World War II, was directly involved in plans for the experiment.

■ The Hanford fuel slugs used for the Oak Ridge experiment "were dissolved and the (radiation) activity followed down the valleys in an aircraft."

But some key details remain a secret.

The Pentagon still refuses to identify the military unit or the Air Force personnel who participated in the tests.

"The Air Force is saying there are still 'compelling reasons' to keep this secret," said Lanny Keller, a policy analyst with the Advisory Committee on Human Radia-

tion Experiments.

The White House panel is investigating the history and ethics of radiation tests conducted during the Cold War. Panel members asked the Air Force to declassify the Green Run report.

The unidentified Air Force officials apparently included high-level officers from Washington, D.C., who flew to Spokane to participate in aerial monitoring after the Green Run. They joined a crew flying through the radiation cloud and detected a "hot spot" near Davenport on the morning of Dec. 3, according to the report.

An expert on the Cold War who reviewed the declassified report this weekend criticized the military for the continuing censorship.

"These agencies have been imbedded in Cold War secrecy for so long, they just can't give it up," said Barton Bernstein, professor of history at Stanford University.

"Here we are in 1994, after the Cold War, with a presidential commission that has difficulty getting material from American agencies," Bernstein said.

A researcher who pursued the story of the Green Run for the Hanford Education Action League of Spokane agreed.

"It boggles the mind how the Air Force can legitimately claim that identifying these units is still a matter of national security when we are helping Russia disarm and clean up," said Jim Thomas, now research director for the Hanford Health Information Network's resource center in Seattle.

The Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments will continue to press for more information on the military tests, said Dan Guttman, executive director.

"We are very pleased we are whittling away at this information, but we still need to keep an eye on the big picture," he said.

"What was the overall program this was part of, and what were the people who were doing this thinking about risks to the public? We haven't answered that yet," Guttman said.

In March 1986, The Spokesman-Review broke the story of the Green Run when the U.S. Department of Energy released a report that referred to it, but gave few details.

For years, the newspaper and the Hanford Education Action League of Spokane sought additional in-

formation through the Freedom of Information Act.

In 1988, the newspaper sued DOE and forced disclosure of the 1950 report, titled "Dissolving of Twenty Day Metal at Hanford."

It revealed many more details, including problems with widespread radiation exposure in the Hanford area after the test. It also referred to "previous tests" of a similar nature.

The newspaper joined HEAL in a search for a report on the other tests. The Air Force considered it so sensitive that even its title was a secret.

In 1992, the Air Force finally released a sanitized version of the report, titled "An Aerial Survey of Radioactivity Associated With Atomic Energy Plants."

It gave details of the Hanford and Oak Ridge tests, but

didn't directly link them the way that the most recent declassifications do. It also did not say the fuel used was from Hanford.

The Oak Ridge report identified the Special Weapons Group at Air Force headquarters as the sponsor of the aerial tests.

The newspaper and HEAL pursued further details, but hit a wall with censors at Air Force Intelligence and the Central Intelligence Agency.

It took a push from the White House advisory committee this year to obtain the new information released Friday.

The Green Run, Hanford's single largest radiation release, sent an estimated 11,000 curies of radioactive iodine 131 into Eastern Washington. The radioactive gas is absorbed by the thyroid gland, where it can cause metabolic problems and cancer.

By comparison, when less than 30 curies of iodine 131 were ejected during the 1979 Three Mile Island accident, sections of western Pennsylvania were evacuated.

The Green Run contaminated large sections of the lower Columbia River Valley.

Thyroid glands of animals "collected from the region" showed radiation exposures 80 times higher than the later 1940s era "tolerance" doses allowed, according to the 1950 report.

"Their 'tolerance thresholds' then exceed our emergency action levels today, when people would be evacuated and milk impounded," said Allen Conklin, a radiation protection official at Washington's Department of Health.

The Hanford test was called the Green Run because a ton of "green" uranium cooled only 20 days instead of the customary 90 days was used.

The Air Force admits in the report that weather conditions at Hanford were "rather poor" and the radiation did not disperse as intended.

"These agencies have been imbedded in Cold War secrecy for so long, they just can't give it up."

Barton Bernstein, professor of history at Stanford University

Cold War Secrecy Tied to Radiation Peril

Ethics: Closed debate on government's atomic testing decades ago meant contractors, researchers were unaware of human dangers, report says.

By MELISSA HEALY **A29**
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Investigators reviewing the history of government-sponsored atomic experiments concluded Friday that Cold War secrecy and bureaucratic sprawl created a patchwork of policies that unwittingly exposed many humans to potentially dangerous radiation.

In a preliminary report, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments found that senior government officials often actively debated the need for human experimentation and the policies that should govern it. But because that debate was often secret, many contractors and university researchers, apparently were unaware of legal and ethical concerns surrounding the experiments they were paid to conduct.

In 1954, for example, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson directed that human radiation exper-

iments conducted by the Defense Department should follow the strict code of medical ethics that emerged from the post-war Nuremberg trials. But he classified his directive "top secret," which meant that it could not be shared with many involved in the programs.

That's one of the most intriguing and perplexing problems we came up with," said Ruth Faden, a medical ethicist from Johns Hopkins University, named to lead the 14-member panel. "We are still trying to figure out why anybody in his right mind would adopt an ethical policy and then classify it secret."

Faden said that her panel, established by Energy Secretary Janet O'Leary last April, has largely documented the existence of some 400 government-sponsored radiation experiments that exposed humans to radiation between 1947 and 1977. But Faden added that, by the time the huge data-gathering effort is completed, the number of experiments "will probably be in the thousands."

Among those are hundreds of experiments in which Energy Department contractors intentionally released radiation into the general population to study its effects. That is many times more than the 13 intentional releases the committee

had known about earlier, including one in which radiation released from a planned rocket malfunction drifted over Los Angeles.

In spite of appearances, however, committee members said it was clear that the experiments were not conducted in an ethical vacuum. Faden said there were active debates, some involving senior officials, university leaders and leading scientists, about what ethical guidelines should govern the experiments.

Even when guidelines were drafted in the open and made available widely, they apparently were not always carried out in the field. In many cases, scientists seemed unsure which government agency's policy governed their research.

In other cases, there was confusion over such questions as whether guidelines governing experimentation on normal, healthy adults extended to those who were in institutions or gravely ill.

While the committee found evidence of ethical debates, Faden said, "It would be a mistake to leave the impression . . . that this discussion was a result of ethical soul-searching about whether this was something we ought to be undertaking as a nation."

Much of the debate that took place in late 1940s and early 1950s

"may well have been animated by straightforward legal concerns about liability—we're not sure about that—but also perhaps about insurance and public relations issues," Faden said.

Secrecy also has hampered efforts to construct a full picture of the government's vast apparatus of experimentation.

"Significant collections of relevant material are still classified," the report said.

The Energy Department, which is being pressed by O'Leary to be more forthcoming on nuclear matters, has said that it must protect much of the documentation on 250 tests in which radioactive lanthanum was intentionally released into the atmosphere by Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico.

The Defense Department has similarly refused to declassify information related to a 1947 experiment in which it released radiolabels into the atmosphere from the Hanford Nuclear Plant in Washington state.

Committee members said that the Central Intelligence Agency also has been reluctant to locate and declassify documents about its participation in the planning of government-sponsored human experiments involving radioactivity.

Only Faden and six of the committee's staff members have been granted security clearances allowing them to comb through millions of pages of secret documents.

DENVER-ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

FEB 16 1995

Colorado body parts used for studies

Doctors, state officials probably shipped organs for federal research without families' OK

By Katie Kerwin

Rocky Mountain News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A dozen Denver-area doctors and the Colorado Health Department collected human organs in the 1970s for government studies on the effects of plutonium.

The pathologists removed or-

gans from people after they died at several Denver-area hospitals.

The man who oversaw the research at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said the families of the dead probably did not know that the body parts were being used by the government.

But George Voelz, the former medical director at Los Alamos, defended the research.

"You could say that people would find this quite distasteful, particularly if it's a loved one," Voelz said. "Yet it's been the base of much medical research through

the centuries.

"If you want to call anybody who's doing tissue work a body snatcher, then there are a lot of us."

The revelations are coming out as the government reveals Cold War secrets. President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments has pushed to declassify thousands of documents revealing the government's role in numerous experiments with humans.

In Colorado, state health offi-

See FLATS on 6A

BURNED BODIES

The bodies of some Rocky Flats lab workers were burned to ashes in a study performed at Los Alamos National Laboratory for the Atomic Energy Commission.

The study involved 11 whole cadavers. They were primarily nuclear workers at Rocky Flats, Los Alamos in New Mexico and Hanford, Wash. The study was separate from the one involving organ samples from Denver-area residents.

1/2 698

cials stored the organs in a freezer at the department, then shipped them to Los Alamos, according to documents recently uncovered by the advisory committee.

Once at Los Alamos, the body parts — lungs, livers, kidneys, lymph nodes and gonads — were cremated and the ash dissolved in acid so scientists could measure how much plutonium had lodged in the body.

The bodies were picked at random so government scientists could learn how plutonium affected the public.

Separate studies were done on some Rocky Flats workers after they died. For the general studies, researchers used body parts from about 900 people across the country. At least 247 of them died in the Denver area.

Scientists wondered if they would find more plutonium in bodies of people living near nuclear weapons plants such as Rocky Flats, 16 miles northwest of downtown Denver. Over the years, plutonium has blown off the plant site, leaked into soil and water and been released by fires.

The results of the tissue studies showed no major differences in plutonium levels in bodies of people who lived in the Denver area and those people elsewhere.

Documents show that researchers were pleased to have so many doctors collaborating with them in the Denver area.

In an April 1971 letter to Dr. Richard E. Herrmann, who worked at St. Anthony Hospital, the director of the study at Los Alamos wrote, "I wish to commend you for the splendid effort you have made on our behalf, and indicate that we have received a good number of samples from Denver in the past month."

The *Rocky Mountain News* was unable to reach Herrmann.

Families of people whose organs were used may have given general permission for autopsies, Voelz said. And Colorado health officials believe the consent forms were adequate.

"Our records show that the hospitals obtained the samples using legally obtained consent forms," said Bob True, a health department spokesman.

But Voelz doubts the families knew that organ parts were being sent to government researchers.

"I don't know what was said by the attending physicians or the pathologists at these hospitals," Voelz said. "My feeling is that they (family members) probably did not know."

Members of the president's committee on human radiation testing are trying to determine whether the government's research was ethical.

"The committee is looking into the extent to which people were used without their knowledge or the consent of someone on their behalf," said Dan Guttman, executive director of the committee.

"We all may end up being used for science, but we're all sacred. So we want to be part of a world where respect and dignity is accorded to people," he said.

The committee unveiled documents Tuesday showing that the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center was a collection site for human bones used in separate studies on radioactive fallout.

Voelz said that about two dozen pathologists across the country sent tissue samples to Los Alamos. Nearly half of the participating doctors were in Denver. They practiced at major hospitals, including Boulder Memorial Hospital, Boulder Community Hospital, Lutheran Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, Rose Memorial Hospital, Swedish Medical Center and St. Anthony.

Documents show the government planned to pay doctors \$50 for each set of tissue samples they provided.

Remains were identified by number, age, sex and residence.

"We don't even know who they were," Voelz said.

Current officials at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment were not aware of the study. They had to consult oldtimers and records.

P.W. Jacoe, a former manager at the department, helped set up the program with Los Alamos. He died in 1973.

In a January 1971 letter to him, Voelz wrote: "I am sending ... a freezer for our use. The freezer is large enough for any of the samples ... Inside the freezer are four shipping containers with fifteen packages of plastic bags, labels, instruction sheets and the pathologists' work sheets."

The Colorado program continued through at least 1978, Voelz said.

7/28
2/2
33

The Cincinnati Post

Page One

November 15, 1994

Saenger's radiation tests 'of little use,' expert says

By Bill Straub
Post-Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Several members of a panel reviewing Cold War-era human radiation experiments say Dr. Eugene Saenger was more concerned with providing data to the Department of Defense than addressing the suffering of his patients at Cincinnati General Hospital.

At best, said Dr. Ron Neumann, senior policy analyst for the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the UC radiologist was involved in "sloppy medical research" and "poor science" during the 11

years he spent conducting total-body irradiation research.

The experiments, Neumann told the panel Monday, resulted in "very little of use" to the medical community. Saenger failed to so much as outline what he hoped to accomplish on behalf of his 88 subjects.

And in some cases, the experiments proved immediately harmful. One document before the panel maintains that a cancer patient, identified as Maud Jacobs, was home caring for her children one day in 1964 when she was called to the hospital for treatment. Ms. Jacobs became "violently ill" the next day and died 25 days later.

Healthy People Secretly Poisoned in 40's Test

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 — Some patients injected with small amounts of radioactive substances in experiments at the University of Rochester at the dawn of the atomic age were not terminally ill, according to documents unearthed by a Presidential panel.

The findings contradicted statements by the experimenters that the patients had not been expected to live very long, said the panel, the President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, which made the documents public today. The panel also said patients were not informed of the experiments.

In connection with the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb, at least 31 patients were injected with radioactive plutonium, uranium, polonium, americium or zirconium, the advisory committee determined.

Robert Loeb, public information director at Strong Memorial Hospital of the University of Rochester Medical Center, said that the experiments had indeed been conducted there but all patients and researchers involved were now dead.

The investigating committee, a panel of ethicists, historians and scientists, was appointed by President Clinton to search all Government agencies for information about experiments on humans using radiation. The action came after Congressional hearings and a disclosure in 1993 by The Albuquerque Tribune of experiments in which plutonium was injected into 18 people.

After months of searching, the committee has collected about 200 cubic feet of documents that have led to a revision of the medical and ethical history of the early atomic

era.

The latest batch of documents, obtained mostly from Yale University, the National Archives and the Department of Energy, were a surprise, said Stephen Klaidman, a committee spokesman, "because we had no idea that the subjects of these experiments were not terminally ill, not suffering from cancer, and may not even have been chronically ill." He added, "They were doing experiments of unknown risk on people who potentially had a full, long life ahead of them."

At the University of Rochester, 11 patients were injected with plutonium, 6 or more were injected with

New documents undercut doctors' statements.

uranium, and 5 were given polonium. At least nine other patients at other universities and hospitals around the country received similar single injections of radioactive substances.

Scientists did not choose terminally ill patients for the experiments at Rochester, as some of them said later, but selected relatively healthy hospital patients, including an 18-year-old boy, to be injected with plutonium, uranium and other radioactive substances, the documents show. The experiments were intended to show what type or amount of exposure would cause damage to normal people in a nuclear war.

"It is of primary importance that the subjects have relatively normal kidney and liver function, as it is

desirable to obtain a metabolic picture comparable to that of an active worker," according to the plan for plutonium injections at Rochester written in September 1945 by Dr. Wright Langham of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

"The individuals chosen as subjects were a miscellaneous group of male and female hospital patients for the most part with well-established diagnoses," said one document written in 1950 by Dr. Samuel Bassett, who carried out some injection experiments. "Patients with malignant disease were also omitted from the group on the grounds that their metabolism might be affected in an unknown manner."

At least 3 of the original 11 patients given plutonium at Rochester were still alive and 2 were being treated by doctors at Rochester in 1971, the documents showed.

But Dr. Langham, who helped write the experimental plans and oversaw them, suggested in public papers after the experiments that the patients had been terminally ill.

He wrote in a 1950 paper that most subjects were "suffering from chronic disorders such that survival for 10 years was highly improbable." In a public statement at a chemical conference in 1956, he said the patients were "hopelessly sick."

The patients in the experiments, carried out from 1945 to 1947, were never told they were being experimented on, according to reports Dr. Patricia Durbin wrote for the Atomic Energy Commission in 1971 after interviewing Dr. Langham and others who conducted the experiment.

Dr. Bassett put the radioactive materials in syringes without telling doctors making the injections that they were injecting radioactive materials.

The Post

Washington

Page A3

July 6, 1994

U.S. Aides Proposed Using A-Test Troops for Research

By Jason Vest

Washington Post Staff Writer

A presidential commission yesterday made public a once-classified 1951 Defense Department document in which officials proposed that extensive biomedical research and experiments be conducted on humans involved in atomic weapons tests.

The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, created by President Clinton to investigate such activity, has not found any implementation orders for the proposed experiments.

But the memo, recovered from the National Archives, indicates that soldiers involved in atomic weapons testing may have been unwitting medical guinea pigs, according to a committee staff member. At yesterday's public meeting, the committee also released documents indicating that despite public denials, as early as 1947 the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had a policy in place for conducting radiation experiments on humans.

The group released internal government memoranda from the early 1950s that show a contentious, classified debate raging at the Defense Department's highest levels over whether the Pentagon should adopt an official policy to address the use of human subjects in medical experiments involving radioactive materials.

"There are whole chapters in bioethics textbooks that will be written on this," said Jonathan Moreno, a committee staff member and bioethics professor from the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn.

The panel, commissioned earlier this year following revelations that the U.S. government had exposed sometimes unwitting human test subjects to radiation, has until April of next year to examine fully the history of federally run or sponsored radiation tests involving humans. Its final report is to include recommendations on how to rectify past problems and ensure against new ones.

According to committee members and staff, the papers released yesterday provide an interesting window on a pivotal period of modern American history and reflect the ethos of fixation with national security prevalent at the time.

For example, following a November 1950 Associated Press report that described an AEC medical research project involving Arizona prisoners, the AEC "has never

sponsored a medical research project where human beings are used for experimental purposes."

Yesterday, however, the committee released a 1947 letter from AEC General Manager Carroll L. Wilson to a University of California professor that sets standards for patient consent in forthcoming radiation tests.

The committee also disclosed a 1947 order from an AEC official classifying as "secret" all documents referring to "experiments with humans" because they "might have adverse effect on public opinion."

Also released was a collection of memos written by defense officials expressing concerns about a biochemical warfare gap developing between the United States and the Soviet Union, and calling for "increased testing" of biochemical and radioactive weapons on humans.

Other memos detail how various agencies locked horns over whether written ethical standards should be established. In 1953, then-Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson signed off on guidelines proposed by the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council that were in keeping with the Nuremberg Code.

Also yesterday, the committee heard from Sen. Tony de Brum of the Marshall Islands, the site of several postwar U.S. atomic bomb tests. He said that based on a preliminary review of documents from the departments of Energy and Defense, there is "no doubt in my mind that Marshallese citizens have been used for radiation research" by the U.S. government.

CORRECTIONS

An article yesterday about the Francis Pool misidentified a Dupont Circle advisory neighborhood commissioner. Pam Taylor was the commissioner who organized a demonstration outside the pool.

Bev Blackwood's position was misidentified in an article Saturday about the hearing of the director of Muriel's Kitchen. He is the chairman of the soup kitchen's operating committee.

Knoxville News-Sentinel

SATURDAY

Page 1

FEBRUARY 11, 1995

50 Cents

ORNL quit '50s uranium study

by Frank Munger
News-Sentinel Oak Ridge bureau

Project was unethical, retired official says

OAK RIDGE — Oak Ridge National Laboratory withdrew from a 1950s collaborative study that injected patients with uranium at a Massachusetts hospital after learning the doses were excessive and harmful to the comatose recipients, Dr. Karl Z. Morgan said Friday.

"We would have nothing more to do with it because we felt they were injuring patients in this

study and not conducting it in a proper manner," said Morgan, who is now retired. He formerly headed the health physics program at ORNL and is often credited with developing early standards for radiation protection.

Terminally ill brain-cancer patients at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston were injected with uranium solutions from 1953

to 1957, according to a report prepared by a committee examining human experiments with radiation. All of the patients reportedly were in comas or semi-comas at the time of the injections.

The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments will hold an all-day meeting in Knoxville March 2 at the Radisson hotel. The uranium

experiments are one of the projects to be reviewed.

Morgan said the patient studies at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston were helpful in determining individual tolerances to uranium. He said results were used to establish occupational standards for the government's budding nuclear industry.

"There were many thousands

of people working with uranium, and we did not know what level to set that was acceptable," he said.

However, Oak Ridge authorities eventually learned of some troubling aspects of the uranium experiments, Morgan said.

"It was an unethical operation," he said, "and I did not approve of getting information in an unethical manner."

In addition to assessing how

Please see ORNL, page A3

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

ORNL

Continued from page A1

uranium passes through the body, medical researchers were exploring the possible use of uranium as a therapy for cancer patients.

Morgan said he received a negative report from Dr. E.G. Struxness, another Oak Ridge health physicist who visited the Massachusetts hospital to review the uranium experiments.

Contacted at his home Friday, Struxness, who is also retired, confirmed part of Morgan's story.

"I was disturbed by what I saw," he said. "The work that was being done there couldn't possibly help them. They were all lying there like vegetables."

Struxness said he visited the Boston hospital on more than one occasion but couldn't recall how many times. After the near-death patients were injected with uranium, some also were exposed to neutrons at a nuclear reactor to attack the cancerous tissues, he said.

Dr. W.H. Sweet of the depart-

ment of neurosurgery at Massachusetts General Hospital headed the uranium experiments. Struxness said it was unclear whether Sweet received permission for the experiments from relatives of the cancer patients.

Asked if he thought the experiments were unethical, Struxness said, "I talked to Dr. Sweet about that.... I don't know that I should repeat what Dr. Sweet said, but I was surprised."

Even though the patients reportedly were terminally ill, Morgan said the high-dose uranium injections accumulated in their kidneys and did more damage.

There is conflicting information available on the experiments, which took place four decades ago.

Although the studies list ORNL as a collaborator with the Massachusetts hospital, Struxness said the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant provided the uranium solutions for the injections. He said some of his associates at Y-12 hand-carried the materials to Boston.

Morgan said he withdrew from the study because of ethical concerns, but it's unclear what the time frame was. A July 1958 let-

ter signed by Morgan urges Sweet to resume the uranium studies and offers to provide funding from ORNL.

He outlined some of the benefits received from the study results and said a subcontract had been drafted for more work. He also made note of the amount of uranium being used in the experiments.

"Although your goal of perfecting a useful therapy tool may require large quantities of reacting material to be deposited in certain tissues, it is not essential that the administration be made in a single massive dose," Morgan wrote.

"It is very important to us to get the study under way again as soon as possible. If you are still interested in continuing our cooperative work on uranium, I would like for Mr. Struxness and Mr. (Birney) Fish, along with our lawyers and auditors, to visit you in Boston at your earlier convenience."

Morgan said Friday he doesn't remember that particular letter, noting that he wrote thousands of letters during his career.

ORNL

uranium passes through the body, medical researchers were exploring the possible use of uranium as a therapy for cancer patients.

Morgan said he received a negative report from Dr. E.G. Struxness, another Oak Ridge health physicist who visited the Massachusetts hospital to review the uranium experiments.

Contacted at his home Friday, Struxness, who is also retired, confirmed part of Morgan's story.

"I was disturbed by what I saw," he said. "The work that was being done there couldn't possibly help them. They were all lying there like vegetables."

Struxness said he visited the Boston hospital on more than one occasion but couldn't recall how many times. After the near-death patients were injected with uranium, some also were exposed to neutrons at a nuclear reactor to attack the cancerous tissues, he said.

Dr. W.H. Sweet of the depart.

ment of neurosurgery at Massachusetts General Hospital headed the uranium experiments. Struxness said it was unclear whether Sweet received permission for the experiments from relatives of the cancer patients.

Asked if he thought the experiments were unethical, Struxness said, "I talked to Dr. Sweet about that.... I don't know that I should repeat what Dr. Sweet said, but I was surprised."

Even though the patients reportedly were terminally ill, Morgan said the high-dose uranium injections accumulated in their kidneys and did more damage.

There is conflicting information available on the experiments, which took place four decades ago.

Although the studies list ORNL as a collaborator with the Massachusetts hospital, Struxness said the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant provided the uranium solutions for the injections. He said some of his associates at Y-12 hand-carried the materials to Boston.

Morgan said he withdrew from the study because of ethical concerns, but it's unclear what the time frame was. A July 1958 let-

ter signed by Morgan urges Sweet to resume the uranium studies - and offers to provide funding from ORNL.

He outlined some of the benefits received from the study results and said a subcontract had been drafted for more work. He also made note of the amount of uranium being used in the experiments.

"Although your goal of perfecting a useful therapy tool may require large quantities of reacting material to be deposited in certain tissues, it is not essential that the administration be made in a single massive dose," Morgan wrote.

"It is very important to us to get the study under way again as soon as possible. If you are still interested in continuing our cooperative work on uranium, I would like for Mr. Struxness and Mr. (Birney) Fish, along with our lawyers and auditors, to visit you in Boston at your earlier convenience."

Morgan said Friday he doesn't remember that particular letter, noting that he wrote thousands of letters during his career.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT

FROM: PHIL CAPLAN *PC*

The attached three boxes contain the following material relating to the Human Radiation investigation:

- Box 1: Agendas, Search Group Meetings, Summary; ACHRE: First Meeting and Startup; Indemnification of Contractors; Marshall Islanders; GAO Letter; University of Rochester; Presidential Memo- Establishment of Advisory Committee; Working Groups/ Committees; Committee Vacancy; Committee Vacancy Letters; Atomic Vets; Presidential Memorandum: Human Subject Review; Resumes; Patient Interview Study; Compensation; FOIA Requests; Phone Numbers and Sign-ins; Conference Call Summaries; Nasopharyngeal Radiation; Green Run- DOD; Early Talking Points; ACHRE Minutes; Anything Congressional; Markey Report/ CIA Report; Records Retrieval/ Hotline/ Directives to Agencies
- Box 2: Clips; Interim Reports- ACHRE; Stakeholder Workshop Parts I and II; Report on Human Radiation Experiments Associated with the Department of Energy; Final Report of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Committee; Interim Report of the ACHRE; Final Report of the ACHRE
- Box 3: Working Documents: Compensation Subcommittee of Legal Issues Working Group (1/10/94); Victims Task Force; Research; October 3, 1995 Event; Administration's Response to ACHRE Report; Claud Bailey; Governor Leavitt (UT)/ Dugway Proving Ground; NBAC; Journal Issues Contributed by Dr. Faden to ACHRE; Clips; Dr. Saenger/ Cincinnati; Performance of Staff Committee Members; Miscellaneous; Briefing Book Number 2; Briefing Book Volume 15

Box 1

11097

NARA 8531

Box 2

11098

NARA 8532

Box 3

11099

NARA 8533

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

3 photos filed 3/13/98

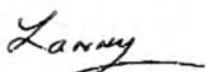
Friday

Phil:

Dan Guttman asked that I send this to you.

He said, re: the next-to-the-last graf, that it's good news and bad news editorial.

Also, Jennifer Eplett sends her regards from Baton Rouge.


Lanny Keller

SEA & COMMENTARY

2-22-95

Rocky Mountain News

Larry D. Stroutman, Publisher, President and Chief Executive Officer

Jay Andrews, Editor

Robert W. Harding, Managing Editor

Chris Colburn, Managing Editor/Features

William D. May, Assistant Editor

William Carroll, Editor of the Editorial Page

Linda S. Draper, Sunday Editor

Elizabeth Bunker, Senior VP, Advertising and Circulation

James R. Johnson, VP, Circulation

James L. Swenson, VP, Labor & Human Resources

Paul R. Gosholt, VP, Operations

Henry R. May, VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Stephen P. Waring, VP, Finance & Information Systems

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

EDITORIALS

On the altar of science

THE ISSUE:
Harvesting organs for medical research

OUR VIEW:
Unethical to do without permission

In medical research, the means to an end is often disturbing. Knowledge in the causes of childhood lung diseases has been advanced by gassing newborn lambs with nitric oxide; brain and lung cancers reveal their secrets when replicated in rats and mice; the key to conquering sickle cell anemia may rest somewhere in the lungs of slaughtered cows. We're likely to be in for even more unsettling stories as the Clinton administration continues to declassify the results of Cold War radiation studies.

Which is what happened last week.

According to articles by the *New* Katie Kerwin, cadavers of Coloradans were randomly harvested for organ research in New Mexico during the 1970s. The purpose was to study whether the public had been exposed to potentially lethal plutonium that may have leaked, leached and/or been blown from the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. The research concluded that the answer was no.

As far as any single study can, that one provided useful data on the critical problem of radiation storage in the 1970s. Yet the issue today is whether those reassuring findings justified the sensational means used to collect them — shipped body parts, unsuspecting families, surreptitious government experiments. Although families were sought out for permission to perform autopsies, they were not informed, apparently, that organs might be harvested, too.

Some officials now argue that the autopsy consent forms were adequate, but is that really the case? Authorizing an autopsy does not imply the extraction and shipment

of body parts for use in laboratory experiments hundreds of miles away. Indeed, such practice trends uncomfortably close to desecration of the dead — unnecessarily close, we would also argue, since most Americans are acutely aware that scientific knowledge is of great importance and many would be happy to permit the use of their bodies and those of loved ones to be used after death for research.

There is, however, only one responsible way to establish this willingness: Ask them.

To be sure, most research — certainly postmortem procedures — fall into the same category as lawmaking and sausage: Most of us would be shocked to see what goes into it. But we needn't see. Generous people already agree to donate organs knowing full well what it probably entails for a corpse. We suspect most grieving families would have been equally willing to help government researchers discover the answer to a critical question involving how much plutonium had made its way into human tissue.

Few things are more disturbing than the specter of medical researchers and doctors taking it upon themselves to decide what constitutes the best interest of patients, living or dead, without proper consent. Perhaps the single most disturbing question dogging Dr. Henry Foster's nomination for surgeon general, for example, goes to the same issue. To wit: Did he violate ethical practice by sterilizing retarded women, in their supposed best interest, apparently without obtaining proper consent?

The 1970s were not that long ago, and the sensibility that demands consent today was hardly foreign to that decade. If researchers want to use someone's organs for experimentation, fine, but ask permission first. Otherwise they shouldn't be surprised if they are compared to grave robbers.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

19-Jan-1995 11:01am

TO: Phillip M. Caplan
FROM: Elgie Holstein
 National Economic Council

SUBJECT: SOME EXPERIMENT SUBJECTS WERE HEALTHIER THAN REPORTS ...

Date: 01/19/95 Time: 08:47

Some Experiment Subjects Were Healthier Than Reports Suggested

WASHINGTON (AP) Some of the patients subjected to medical experiments with radioactive plutonium in the 1940s were selected even though they suffered from no chronic or terminal illnesses, government investigators have discovered.

Previously released reports suggested that the 18 civilians who were injected with plutonium during the early years of the Cold War had been selected because they were severely ill with a "high probability" of dying within years.

While several of the patients died within months in some cases a few weeks of the injections, others lived many years. Seven patients lived 10 years or more after the experiments and three lived more than 30 years.

Documents unearthed by the presidential Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, suggest that one reason for the longevity was that some of the patients actually were relatively healthy with no terminal or chronic illnesses.

The findings were to be discussed at a hearing today by the advisory panel, which was created last year to look into the ethical ramifications of the 18 plutonium cases and other radiation experiments involving humans during the early years of the Cold War.

The 1940s plutonium experiments were kept secret for decades. Although referred to in a congressional report in 1986, they did not become widely known until last year when The Albuquerque Tribune published a series of stories that for the first time identified some of the victims.

The stories caught the attention of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and the Clinton administration, which ordered a search of documents on human radiation experiments in general during the Cold War years. The advisory panel was charged with evaluating the ethical ramifications surrounding such tests.

The new documents, obtained from committee sources Wednesday, showed that research protocol for the plutonium experiments did not require that the subjects be either chronically or terminally ill.

In fact, some of the documents suggested that several of the first experiments involved patients who were not in danger of dying, investigators concluded.

In other cases among 11 experiments conducted at the University of Rochester, researchers made "a deliberate choice" ... to choose patients with non-malignant diseases in order to more closely model normal human metabolism, according to a committee staff summary.

But the documents also confirmed that in at least one case a patient's illness was diagnosed incorrectly. The case involved a 49-year-old woman who was diagnosed as being critically ill, but later was found to "have a greater life experience than originally anticipated."

Besides Rochester, experiments were carried out at the University of Chicago; the University of California, San Francisco; and at the government's Oak Ridge nuclear facility in Tennessee. The 18 patients ranged in age from 4 to 69 years.

In reviewing a series of newly uncovered documents on the plutonium tests, investigators also found:

That researchers frequently selected patients with chronic arthritis or cancer, but only if they had relatively normal kidney and liver function so that they resembled more closely the metabolism of an active worker.

That researchers discussed in detail the need to find some terminal patients so that they could be injected with unusually high dosages as much as 50 to 95 micrograms of plutonium, 10 to 20 times the amount injected in healthier patients.

That the military may have been reluctant to declassify the plutonium experiments, in part because some of the subjects' illnesses may have been misdiagnosed or their severity exaggerated.

Investigators said the documents also reinforced the widely held belief that none of the patients was ever told any details about the experiments, including the fact that they were being injected with deadly, highly radioactive plutonium.

APNP-01-19-95 0848EST

Date: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE***National Economic Council***TO: Phil Caplan

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

FROM: **Elgie Holstein**

PHONE: 202-456-2800

FAX: 202-456-2223

Number of pages, including this cover sheet: 2

Attached is the wire story
I mentioned viz the
President's trip to Ohio.
~~After you~~ After you look over
the Q+A in your e-mail, will
you get it to Ginny T? Thanks.

Date: 01/12/95 Time: 08:30

Judge Says Radiation Lawsuits May Go to Trial

(Cincinnati) -- A federal judge says relatives of cancer patients used in Cold War radiation experiments at a Cincinnati hospital can sue the researchers.

U-S District Judge Sandra Beckwith rejected researchers' argument that they are entitled to immunity because they had received Pentagon funding.

She wrote that the relatives -- and the one survivor among the patients -- deserve to go to trial because of indications the government treated its citizens like "laboratory animals."

Between 1960 and 1972, at least 88 patients with inoperable cancer received large doses of radiation at the former Cincinnati General Hospital. The relatives and lone survivor say the patients were never told the study was done to determine what effect radiation might have on soldiers.

No trial date has been set.

APNP-01-12-95 0830EST

QUESTION: A federal judge in Cincinnati ruled this week that relatives of cancer patients who were subjected to government-sponsored radiation experiments in the 1960s can sue the researchers. Do you think the government should compensate victims of these tests?

ANSWER: Last year, I appointed an Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experimentation, made up of leading scientists, health professionals, and ethicists, to find out the truth about exactly what happened with radiation experiments done on people during the Cold War. In fact, that Committee held a public meeting in Cincinnati last October to hear directly from the public. On April 21st of this year, the Committee will issue its final report about the experiments and about what should be done now for the families of anyone who was mistreated. I also directed all the departments of the government to dig up and disclose all the old records of the experiments. As a result, millions of pages of records have been uncovered and made public for the first time. We'll have to see what the Committee recommends, but the steps I've already taken are putting previously secret government information into the hands of these families so they can find out what really happened.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS
1726 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments

FROM: Stephen Klaidman

DATE: December 7, 1994

RE: News clippings

Attached are news articles that have appeared since the November meeting of the Advisory Committee.

These include a sample of coverage of the Spokane panel meeting.



Nightmares of the atomic age

Residents tell White House panel of experiments that they believe led to disease, death

By Karen Dorn Steele
Staff writer

They called themselves casualties of the Cold War.

They traveled miles of icy highways to tell their stories of pain and poor health to a White House panel investigating human radiation experiments in the dawn of the atomic age.

Dozens of angry people spoke to

four doctors and professors from the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments meeting in Spokane on Monday.

U.S. Department of Energy officials admitted in 1990 that Hanford's radiation releases during the Cold War were large enough to cause increased health risks. The link between Hanford and disease is still being studied.

Inside

Prisoners seek compensation.
/A6

Mesa farmer Tom Bailie spoke of the "death mile," a stretch of rural homesteads in the shadow of Hanford where every one of his neighbors has cancer or thyroid disease.

Brenda Weaver of Spokane, who lived in the "death mile" as a child, talked of deformed sheep at her family's farm and men from Hanford who combed the fields with Geiger counters. She spoke of her daughter, Jamie, who was born in 1965 with no eyes.

Gertie Hansen of Coeur d'Alene told of the thyroid illness that struck

Continued: **Experiments/A10**

Experiments: Stories told about radiation effects

Continued from A1

half the girls in her high school class, and the death of her husband from cancer at age 36.

Trisha Pritikin of Berkeley, Calif., recalled her childhood in the Tri-Cities, and the thyroid disease and chronic fatigue she copes with as an adult.

"I'm the daughter of a Hanford worker. There was no way I could have given informed consent" to radiation emissions from Hanford, Pritikin said.

Kay Sutherland of Walla Walla mourned two infants who lived only hours. She spoke quietly of the four other miscarriages she suffered while Hanford's plutonium factories spewed radiation into the air and the Columbia River.

"We were used for experiments without our knowledge or consent," Sutherland said.

Harold Bibeau, a former prisoner in Oregon, recalled the pain and worry he felt after his testicles were bombarded with X-rays in a government-funded experiment when he was 23.

The Atomic Energy Commission had planned to track the prisoners to make sure they didn't develop health problems, but the plans were dropped.

"They cut us off with nothing to show for our efforts except \$100 and a lot of pain," Bibeau told the radiation panel.

Leonard Schroeter, a Seattle attorney who covered as a military reporter the Nuremberg war crimes trials in the '40s, said the U.S. government's human radiation experiments were as evil as Nazi atrocities.

"Criminal statutes were violated by researchers and physicians. Your job is not only to call attention to that, but to suggest appropriate responses," Schroeter told the panel.

It will be important for the White House to admit criminal acts were committed and to provide victims with compensation, Schroeter said.



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review

■ Gertie Hansen of Coeur d'Alene testifies Monday on radiation exposure.

Schroeter said he isn't saying individuals should be prosecuted, but the government should acknowledge that the researchers conducting human experiments were acting as agents of official policy.

Committee members told their audience that they were there mostly to listen.

They probed gently for documentation that could back up the stories. They praised nervous people for coming forward.

"We are very sensitive to the hurt and pain of many people," said Dr. Reed Tuckson, president of Charles Drew University of Medicine in Los Angeles.

"What we hear the most in these hearings is a loss of trust" in the government, he said.

Panelists offered some comments on the direction of their work, which is about half finished.

The committee plans to push for complete declassifica-

tion of all documents related to the Green Run, the 1949 military experiment at Hanford that released a huge cloud of radiation over Eastern Washington with no public warning.

Allen Conklin, Washington state's top radiation protection official, said he has a security clearance and has read the classified versions of the Green Run report.

"Are there compelling national security reasons to keep this secret?" asked Duncan Thomas, a University of Southern California medical school professor.

"In my opinion, no," Conklin replied.

The 14-member advisory committee group was appointed by President Clinton this year to investigate radiation experiments and deliberate radiation releases during the Cold War.

The committee will write a final report next year on the ethical implications of the research.

Official advocates compensation for prisoners

Washington state prisoners involved in Cold War radiation experiments deserve medical care and compensation, a state health official told a White House panel Monday.

Oregon prisoners subjected to similar tests also should be treated and paid, said Allen Conklin, Washington's top radiation protection official.

The controversial experiments on 131 prisoners in the 1960s and '70s were discussed by four members of the White House panel at its day-long hearing in Spokane.

The prisoners agreed to have their testicles bombarded with X-rays in a study of radiation's impact on fertility.

Washington could seek a federal grant to pay for the follow-up, or it could be handled directly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Conklin said.

The names of the Oregon prisoners were made public in 1984, and Oregon has already designed a system of follow-up care.

In Washington, there has been no follow-up and the names of most of the participants have not been released at the insistence of Dr. C. Alvin Paulsen, the Seattle researcher who conducted the experiments at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

Conklin's boss, state Health Officer Dr. Mimi Fields, is reviewing Conklin's report on the prisoners. It was written last week and was made public for the first time at Monday's hearing.

—Karen Dom Steele



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review

■ Harold Bibeau describes radiation experiments performed on him.

Panel Told Of Radiation Tests

11/22 09:15 AM

Category: Domestic

Keywords: Radiation-Test

^*1110< ^AP-Radiation-Test<,0497<
^Panel Told Of Radiation Tests<<

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) _ Prisoners who volunteered for radiation experiments three decades ago were not told of the consequences, which for some included removal of their testicles, a state official told a presidential panel.

One of the inmates who participated also testified Monday that he does not remember being told about the side effects of the blistering radiation bombardment and the 1965 surgical biopsy on his testicles.

Harold Bibeau, 52, said he still feels pain from the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. Now a Portland, Ore., draftsman, Bibeau said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up medical treatment and compensation.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating and given \$100 when they left prison.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half of us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau said.

Catherine Knox, director of health services for the Oregon Department of Corrections, said about half of the participants are dead and others do not wish to be contacted. Some are still imprisoned.

She said the majority of 67 Oregon volunteers were told nothing about testicular biopsies that for some prisoners led to removal of their testicles. Sterilization was recommended because any children they fathered would probably suffer birth defects.

Four members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments also heard that some consent forms appeared to have

been signed by Dr. Carl Heller, the researcher who conducted the Oregon prison studies. Heller died in 1982.

President Clinton appointed the committee in April to determine if radiation experiments were conducted with the subjects' informed consent and whether compensation is due. The full committee will make its recommendations next April, said Dr. Reed Tuckson, who chaired the hearing.

The panel also heard from people who felt they suffered health problems from Hanford nuclear reservation radiation releases. The Hanford reservation in south-central Washington manufactured plutonium for nuclear weapons for four decades.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early '70s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were exposed to varying X-ray doses so researchers could learn about the potential biological effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford workers and on NASA astronauts.

Al Conklin, a Washington State Department of Health radiation expert, testified that prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary were exposed to X-ray doses up to 400 times the strength of a modern X-ray.

AP-NY-11-22-94 0815EST<

END OF FILE-> WIREREADY NEWSWIRE SYSTEMS INC.

Copyright 1994
The Associated Press
All Rights Reserved

AP Corrects Radiation Story

11/22 10:51 PM

Category: Domestic

Radiation-Tests

Keywords:

^*1110< ^AP-Radiation-Tests, CORRECTIVE<,0096<
^AP Corrects Radiation Story<<

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) _ In a story Monday about hearings into
a
1965 federally funded radiation experiment, The Associated Press
reported erroneously that former prison inmate Harold Bibeau had
his testicles removed.

Bibeau's testicles were bombarded with radiation and a small
portion was cut out for a biopsy, but they were not surgically
removed. A few of the more than 60 other Oregon inmate volunteers
subsequently did have to be castrated because of damage from the
experiment.

AP-NY-11-22-94 2151EST<

END OF FILE-> WIREREADY NEWSWIRE SYSTEMS INC.

Copyright 1994
The Associated Press
All Rights Reserved

SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER
Seattle, WA

NOV 21 1994

Panel studying human radiation tests holds hearing in Spokane

By Staff

A presidential committee investigating human radiation experiments will be in Spokane today to hear the stories of subjects of experiments and of people who might have been exposed to radiation from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Four members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments will conduct an open meeting from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of Spokane's Ridpath Hotel, W. 515 Sprague Ave.

The 14-member committee was appointed by President Clinton in April to determine whether a series of human radiation experiments conducted by the U.S. Energy Department between World War II and the early 1970s were conducted with the informed consent of the subjects, said Steve Klaidman, communications di-

rector for the committee.

The committee, before issuing a report next April, will assess the scientific value of the experiments to determine whether to recommend paying compensation to the subjects. Klaidman said the committee will examine whether the department was right in keeping secret information about 12 large, intentional releases of radiation from Energy Department facilities — including several at Hanford.

Clinton appointed the committee and asked for its recommendations after a series of media reports on the human experiments.

About 30 people are expected to speak at today's hearing. The committee has had similar meetings in Cincinnati and San Francisco. Future sessions are set for January in New Mexico and February in Nashville, Tenn., Klaidman said.

Hanford's Cold War secrecy thaws

White House panel to listen to radiation subjects

By Karen Dorn Steele
Staff writer

Dorothy Thrall remembers that frightening day in second grade that links her to Hanford radiation studies.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

She will tell her story Monday in Spokane to a White House panel gathering news information about Hanford's Cold War legacy.

The Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments will hear from others, as well.

State prisoners whose testicles were bombarded with X-rays in government-funded experiments in the 1960s also are expected to testify at the daylong hearing.

The committee will hear about Hanford downwinders exposed unknowingly to radiation

in the 1940s and 1950s, and a program of autopsies on nuclear workers at Hanford and other weapons sites.

Thrall's testimony will provide details of the little-known dietary study at 17 Tri-Cities schools from 1962-77.

Hanford scientists were studying the relationship between diet and radiation levels in the bodies of the children, said Pamela Pacific Northwest Laboratory spokeswoman Dawn Zimmerman.

Diet studies

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Experiments: Parents listed what she ate

Thrall, 39, of Renton City, Wash., recalls being asked to leave her second-grade classroom one day in 1962. She was 7 years old, the daughter of a Hanford worker.

The children were sent through a machine that measured radiation they had absorbed, Zimmerman said.

In the early 1960s, several accidents released radiation in the Hanford area, including an April 1962 accident at the plutonium finishing plant that sent radioactive gases into the air. There also was fallout from atomic bomb tests in Nevada.

Thrall remembers leaving school with a log book. For weeks, her parents recorded what she ate and drank at the West Richland farm where the family raised cattle and lived off the land.

As Thrall grew up and developed a series of serious illnesses, the memories and questions flooded back: Was she involved in a human experiment?

"They'd never do this way. But people then just didn't ask questions," she said.

The 14-member advisory panel was appointed by President Clinton in April after Energy Secretary Harold O. Ickes condemned human experiments in the early years of the atomic age.

SPOKESMAN REVIEW
Spokane, WA

NOV 20 1994

BL

The studies were not secret and were published at the time in area newspapers. The Department of Energy says the studies were conducted with the permission of the schools and parents.

None of the participants ingested radioactive substances, a spokesman said.

Questions

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

Thrall was one of 5,500 Tri-Cities school children involved in a research project involving diet and radiation in the body.

Scientists made her drink a milky white liquid and then passed her small body through a large, tube-like machine that scared her.

"They explained nothing. They just ordered me," she said.

As many as 97,000 Americans may have been exposed to hazardous substances in government-funded experiments with radiation, chemicals and drugs, according to a September congressional hearing.

The committee will write a report next year on the ethical and scientific implications of the experiments.

TRI-CITY HERALD
Tri-Cities, WA

NOV 18 1994

Hanford dietary studies available

By the Herald staff

People who participated in dietary studies at Hanford from 1962 to 1972 can request copies of their individual records from the studies.

The U.S. Department of Energy has streamlined the process for releasing the records.

About 6,000 people participated in the studies, including about 3,500 elementary school children from 17 Mid-Columbia schools, according to the DOE.

Other participants were volunteers in the Ringold and Riverview areas who used the Columbia River for irrigation and residents of two small coastal fishing towns dependent on the river as a food source.

In the 1960s, Hanford scientists were investigating the relationships among diets, worldwide fallout, Hanford operations and radiation levels in the body.

Volunteers in the dietary studies completed detailed records of their food intakes for one week and were then measured to determine total radiation levels in their bodies.

Available documents indicate participants followed their normal diets.

Participants can obtain request forms by writing to: Privacy Act Officer, A-1-12, DOE Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, Richland, 99282. Or participants can call DOE at 376-0000.

Compensation sought in radiation cases

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A former Oregon prisoner whose testicles were bombarded with radiation in 1965 as part of a federally funded experiment asked a presidential panel Monday for medical follow-up and compensation.

Harold Bibeau, 52, told the panel he still feels pain from the surgical procedures accompanying the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. He said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up treatment.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau told the outreach subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The committee also heard from people who might have been exposed to radiation from intentional Cold War atmospheric releases from the Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington state.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early '70s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the

Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were exposed to varying doses of radiation from an X-ray device so researchers could learn about the potential biological

'I really don't think it was worth it.'

— Harold Bibeau, who was paid \$5 to \$10 a month and given \$100 while he was a Oregon prisoner to have his testicles hit with radiation in experiments

cal effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford nuclear reservation workers and on NASA astronauts.

Al Conklin, a Washington State Department of Health radiation expert, told the committee that eight prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary study were exposed to X-rays doses of 400 rads, but most received doses ranging from 7.5 to 100 rads. Medical journal reports of the studies indicate some inmates were exposed to doses as high as 650 rads.

A rad is a measurement of the amount of radiation absorbed by a material. A modern X-ray is about 1 rad or less.

One of the committee's goals is to determine whether the inmates gave informed consent to the

experiments, said the panel's chairman, Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, president of the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles.

Bibeau, convicted of killing a man in 1963, was sentenced to 12 years in an Oregon state prison. In 1964, a fellow prisoner encouraged him to join the radiation program.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating in the experiments and given \$100 when they left prison. Now a Portland, Ore., draftsman, Bibeau said he does not remember being told about the painful side effects of the experiments.

He said the dosages caused burns and blistering and that health effects still linger three decades later.

"When we left prison, no longer able to sire children and no longer of any value to them, they cut us off with nothing to show for our efforts except everlasting pain and \$100," Bibeau said. "I really don't think it was worth it."

Catherine Knox of the Oregon Department of Corrections said she did not think consent forms signed by inmates were specific enough to be valid. It appeared that some were signed by researcher Dr. Carl G. Heller, not inmates, in April 1971.

Test subjects, Hanford downwinders ask for follow-up

AROUND THE REGION

Radiation tests left pain, sterility

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A former Oregon prisoner whose testicles were bombarded with radiation in 1965 as part of a federally funded experiment asked a presidential panel Monday for medical follow-up and compensation.

Harold Bibeau, 52, told the panel he still feels pain from the surgical procedures accompanying the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. He said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up treatment.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau told the outreach subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The committee also heard from people who might have been exposed to radiation from intentional Cold War atmospheric releases from the Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington state.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early '70s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were exposed to varying doses of radiation from an X-ray device so researchers could learn about

the potential biological effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford nuclear reservation workers and on NASA astronauts.

One of the committee's goals is to determine whether the inmates gave informed consent to the experiments, said the panel's chairman, Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, president of the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles.

Bibeau, convicted of killing a man in 1963, was sentenced to 12 years in an Oregon state prison. In 1964, a fellow prisoner encouraged him to join the radiation program.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating in the experiments and given \$100 when they left prison. Now a Portland draftsman, Bibeau said he does not remember being told about the painful side effects of the experiments.

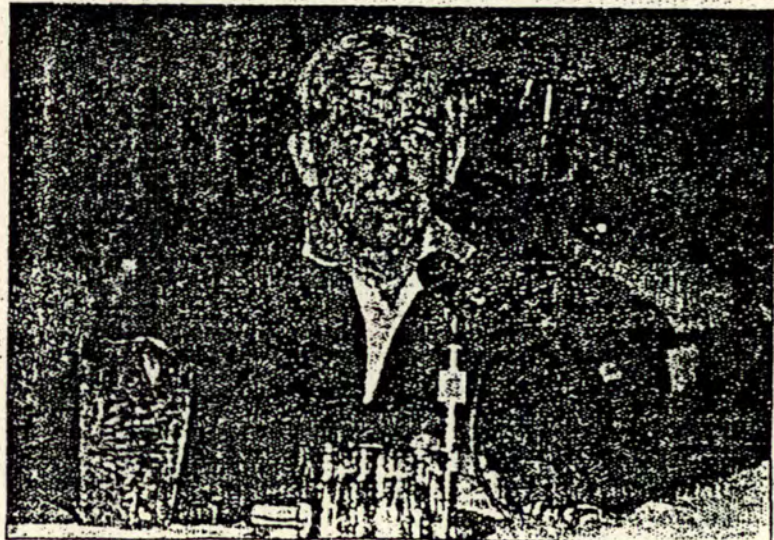
He said the dosages caused burns and blistering and that

health effects still linger three decades later.

"When we left prison, no longer able to sire children and no longer of any value to them, they cut us off with nothing to show for our efforts except everlasting pain and \$100," Bibeau said. "I really don't think it was worth it."

In another dark chapter of the Cold War, thousands of Northwest residents were potentially exposed to radiation from a secret 1949 atmospheric test called the Green Run at Hanford. The Energy Department said the release of short-lived radioactive iodine was to help calibrate equipment used to detect Soviet atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.

Class-action lawsuits stemming from the Hanford releases started out with 800 litigants, but there may be more than 1 million "human guinea pigs" in the Pacific Northwest, Schroeter said.



The Associated Press

Harold Bibeau of Portland, a former Oregon State Penitentiary inmate, testifies before the Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments Monday in Spokane. He and others asked the committee for follow-up treatment and compensation.

Radiation tests used inmates as guinea pigs

By Paul Hoversten
USA TODAY

Some of the most gruesome human radiation experiments — exposure of prisoners' testicles to high X-ray doses — are coming under a presidential panel's scrutiny.

The 14-member Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments today holds a field hearing in Spokane, Wash., to review tests on 131 inmates at prisons in Oregon and Washington from 1963-71.

The experiments on 67 men at Oregon State Prison and 64 at Washington State Prison were first disclosed in a 1976 lawsuit by 20 former prisoners and were summarized in a 1986 congressional study by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

But much of the data about the tests has only recently been declassified. Today's hearing is designed, in part, to determine whether compensation or medical follow-up is warranted. About half of the prisoners are believed to be alive.

Funded by the old Atomic Energy Commission, now the Energy Department, the tests were to see how much radiation NASA's astronauts could survive on trips to the moon.

But some of the prisoners have cited problems including prostate cancer, loss of vision, testicular tumors and other diseases that may have been caused by the research.

"We can be blamed for being duped but nobody ever sat us down and explained what the tests were all about and what the complications were," ex-inmate Robert Garrison, 54, told *The Washington Post*.

The Oregon tests were carried out on prisoners age 25-52. Each signed a consent order, accepted a \$5-to-\$10 payment and agreed to receive a vasectomy and \$100 more at the end of the irradiation.

Their testicles were irradiated in a single session with up to 120 times the annual occupational radiation limit for reproductive organs. All men later had vasectomies.

The Washington tests were similar to Oregon's, with prisoners getting up to 80 times the annual radiation dosage. Six, however, did not have vasectomies and it is not known whether any later fathered children.

The federal radiation committee has



By Marcy Nighswander, AP

“
This appearance of treating
some citizens as 'expendable'
... is especially repugnant in
a country that prides itself on
its diversity.
”

— Hazel O'Leary,
Energy secretary

looked into hundreds of federally sponsored Cold War experiments since last year and is expected to make its report by next summer.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who prompted the government-wide review, has criticized as "disturbing" the use of test subjects like prisoners, pregnant women and mentally retarded children.

"This appearance of treating some citizens as 'expendable' ... is especially repugnant in a country that prides itself on its diversity and that has as its goal providing equal opportunity for all its citizens."

Prisoner Irradiation Probed

Tests Were Among Riskiest of Cold War Era

By Gary Lee
Washington Post Staff Writer

A1

PORTLAND, Ore.—On Sept. 29, 1965, Harold Bibeau walked out of his cell at Oregon State Prison and onto center stage in one of the darker dramas of American Cold War history.

Summoned to a prison laboratory, the 23-year-old inmate lay down in a coffin-like box and lowered his testicles into water. Then, researchers deliberately exposed them to a dose of radiation stronger than 20 modern diagnostic X-rays would give.

The experiments were part of a decade-long research project in the 1960s and 1970s, using prison inmates here and in Washington state. Funded by the Atomic Energy Commission, forerunner of the Department of Energy, and followed with interest by scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the tests were designed to help determine how much radiation U.S. astronauts could bear during spaceflights, according to federal officials familiar with them.

In all, testicles of more than 130 prisoners in the two states were irradiated. Participation was voluntary, and the prisoners received small stipends and other cash payments for undergoing the tests but, today, some of the former inmates say they were unaware of the long-term risks.

The experiments have drawn some attention in the past, in a lawsuit by 20 former prisoners in 1976 and in a 1986 congressional study. But detailed information about the experiments was buried until recently in classified documents and confidential papers. This report is based on interviews with surviving participants, prison officials and medical researchers, as well as federal records.

On Monday, in an attempt to shed further light on the prisoner studies, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, appointed by the White House, is scheduled to hold a field hearing in Spokane,

Wash. The 14-member committee, appointed after Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary brought the issue of federal radiation tests on humans to national attention last year, is charged with determining whether financial compensation, medical tests or other kinds of follow-up should be given to participants.

Of the hundreds of federally sponsored Cold War research projects involving deliberate human exposure to radiation, including a series involving retarded children in Boston and another using aborted fetuses in Chicago, the prisoner studies stand out as some of the most shocking. The testicles are especially sensitive to radiation damage because they contain rapidly dividing cells that produce sperm.

Damage to chromosomes in the cells of a man's testicles can cause infertility, raise the risk of testicular cancer and increase the chances his children will have birth defects.

Using an X-ray device, researchers beamed varying doses of radiation on the prisoners' testicles. They later took biopsies to determine the effect of the irradiation. An article published in a scientific journal by researchers who conducted the tests said some of the prisoners were exposed to much as 640 rads, a potentially fatal amount if spread over the whole body.

Bibeau's dose was 18½ rads; an average modern X-ray ranges between 0.1 and 1 rad.

The Washington state experiments were halted in 1970, and the Oregon experiments ended in 1973. As details have emerged, a handful of surviving participants have come forward with a list of medical problems, including prostate cancer, loss of vision and vascular diseases, some of which may have resulted from the experiments.

Phillip King, 54, who took part in the tests in 1969 as a state prison inmate in Salem, Ore., complains of groin pains so severe he sometimes has trouble sitting down. Robert Garrison, 54, another former Oregon inmate who recalls repeated radiation exposures over several weeks in the late 1960s, said he has

had persistent rashes and a painful lump on his testicles. Bibeau reports lumps on his upper thigh and back. Another participant reported one of his testicles became attached to his scrotum as a result of one of the biopsies.

The participants also express anger about their use as guinea pigs and the lack of adequate medical follow-up.

"We can be blamed for being duped, but nobody ever sat us down and explained what the tests were all about and what the complications were," Garrison said. "But worst of all is the deceit that we've been subjected to afterwards. I can't even get a doctor to diagnose my problems, let alone give me treatment for them. I shouldn't have to scream to get some kind of results. I'm a human being too."

"I took part in the tests and now I'm in a lot of pain," said King, who works at odd jobs in Portland. "I don't know what I'm owed, but I think I'm owed something."

Some of the prisoners have also experienced psychological problems, said Catherine Knox, director of health services for Oregon's Department of Correction. "Apparently, no one thought about the effect it would have on prisoners to have their testicles irradiated," she said. As a result, "some have had questions about their sexual orientation," she added.

Most of the former prisoners interviewed have worked to establish new lives and to steer clear of further trouble with the law. Bibeau is married and has a 10-year-old son. Garrison, originally jailed for armed assault, is a grandfather who runs his home-maintenance business.

They gave various reasons for volunteering for the experiments. For Hill, it was a chance to earn extra cash.

Besides the \$5-a-month stipend, participants received extra cash for biopsies and for undergoing a vasectomy, recommended by researchers to prevent them from having children because of the risk of birth defects from their radiation exposure.

For Bibeau, a former soldier, it was a chance to perform a patriotic duty. "I was just told that it was a way to serve my country even though I was in prison," he said. "And I bought it."

The experiments involving prisoners in radiation tests—and other research using mental patients, members of racial minorities, pregnant women and other vulnerable subgroups of the American population—have raised questions about the ethical standards used by researchers at the time.

"A reasonable person looking at the experiments now would conclude that they were ethically wrong," said John Fletcher, a professor of biomedical ethics at the University of Virginia Medical School. "At that time, however, the ethos among researchers was different," Fletcher said. "It was nationalistic, and well-funded, and there wasn't much scrutiny."

"In order to justify using prisoners, the researchers would have had to make a determination that they are somehow less than human or less important than the general population," said Dianne Bartels, acting director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota. Fletcher pointed out that until the mid-1960s, few rules restricted medical researchers from designing experiments. And it was considered acceptable to subject prisoners, mental patients or members of minority groups to risks that were not imposed on the general population.

Since 1966, all National Institutes of Health-sponsored research projects must be approved in advance by an independent review board. Rules passed in 1978 bar use of prisoners in any medical experiments

that do not benefit them. Because prisoners are a captive population, they are not regarded as being in a position to give informed consent, Fletcher noted. Fletcher, who feels the experiments were wrong even at the time, said, "In today's world, they would not be possible." Convicted of killing a man who tried to molest him in 1963, Bibeau was sentenced to 12 years in an Oregon state prison. In 1964, a fellow prisoner encouraged him to join the radiation program.

Carl G. Heller, a medical researcher at the Pacific Northwest Research Foundation in Seattle, who was one of the developers of the birth control pill, began the radiation program in Oregon in the early 1960s. The brother of Walter W. Heller, top economic adviser to President John F. Kennedy, Heller was well-known in the U.S. medical community. He died in 1982. C. Alvin Paulsen, a researcher at the University of Washington, oversaw parallel experiments in Washington. Paulsen and Mavis Rowley, a former assistant to Heller, declined to be interviewed for this article, or to appear at the federal hearings in Spokane Monday.

More than three decades after his participation, Bibeau, 52, now a designer and draftsman living in Portland, recalls the experiments in detail. He remembers Heller for his persuasive manner and wing-tipped shoes. He recalls the \$5-a-month stipend he received was spent on cigarettes, razors and candy. Above all, Bibeau recounts in detail the burning sensation he felt in his groin after receiving the radiation. "It was warm down there," he said, "like I had been laying out in the sun for too long."

Bibeau and other participants were asked to provide urine and semen samples to the researchers. After the radiation exposure, the subjects were also subjected to regular biopsies.

Bibeau recalls Heller warned him the experiments could result in "a burning feeling" for a couple of days and told him it was possible there might be "chromosomal complications." Bibeau had a vasectomy on Heller's recommendation. When he eventually married and wanted children, his wife underwent artificial insemination. "To this day I have no idea what chromosomal complications are," Bibeau said. "How can you have informed consent if you don't know what's happening to you?"

In a 1976 deposition for a lawsuit brought by some Oregon inmates who took part in the experiments, Heller testified he "discussed the possibility of radiation burn to the skin of the scrotum, and . . . discussed the probability of chromosomal alterations and therefore, the vasectomy."

He also testified he mentioned "possibility of tumors of the testes. I didn't want to frighten them," Heller said in his testimony, "so I said tumor. I may on occasion have said cancer." A total of about \$6,000 was distributed to prisoners in settling the suit.

About half the 131 participants have died, Knox said. A handful are still imprisoned at both participating institutions. In 1987, the Oregon legislature passed a statute to provide follow-up tests to all survivors of Heller's experiments.

James Rutenber, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Medical School, designed a protocol for the follow-up work. Ten participants have received checkups, Knox said, but the program has failed to receive funding.

"Time is running out for participants to receive medical attention," Rutenber said. "For some it may already be too late."

Radiation experiments still bring pain, ex-prisoner says

The Associated Press

SPOKANE — A former Oregon prisoner whose testicles were bombarded with radiation in 1965 as part of a federally funded experiment asked a presidential panel yesterday for medical follow-up and compensation.

Harold Bibeau, 52, told the panel he still feels pain from the surgical procedures accompanying the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. He said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up treatment.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half of us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau told the outreach subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The committee also heard from people who might have been exposed to radiation from intentional Cold War atmospheric releases from the Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington state.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early 1970s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were exposed to varying doses of radiation from an X-ray

device so researchers could learn about the potential biological effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford Nuclear Reservation workers and on NASA astronauts.

Al Cooklin, a state Department of Health radiation expert, told the committee that eight prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary study were exposed to X-ray doses of 400 rads, but most



They're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish.

— Harold Bibeau, experiment subject

received doses ranging from 7.5 to 100 rads. Medical journal reports of the studies indicate some inmates were exposed to doses as high as 850 rads.

A rad is a measurement of the amount of radiation absorbed by a material. A modern X-ray is about 1 rad or less.

One of the committee's goals is to determine whether the inmates gave informed consent to the experiments, said the panel's chairman, Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, president of the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in

Los Angeles.

Bibeu, convicted of killing a man in 1963, was sentenced to 12 years in an Oregon state prison. In 1964, a fellow prisoner encouraged him to join the radiation program.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating in the experiments and given \$100 when they left prison. Now a Portland, Ore., draftsman, Bibeu said he does not remember being told about the painful side effects of the experiments.

He said the dosages caused burns and blistering and that health effects still linger three decades later.

"When we left prison, no longer able to sire children and no longer of any value to them, they cut us off with nothing to show for our efforts except everlasting pain and \$100," Bibeu said. "I really don't think it was worth it."

Catherine Knox of the Oregon Department of Corrections said she did not think consent forms signed by inmates were specific enough to be valid. It appeared that some were signed by researcher Dr. Carl G. Heller, not inmates, in April 1971.

Heller, a researcher at the Pacific Northwest Research Foundation in Seattle, died in 1982.

Dr. C. Alvin Paulsen, a University of Washington professor of medicine who oversaw the Washington state prison experiments, did not attend the hearing. He was unavailable for comment, the university said.

BURRELLE'S

NewsExpress

PAGE 1 OF 1

Gruesome X-ray experiments on prisoners to be reviewed

Gannett News Service

Some of the most gruesome human radiation experiments — exposure of prisoners' testicles to high X-ray doses — are coming under a presidential panel's scrutiny.

The 14-member Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments is holding a field hearing in Spokane, Wash., today to review tests on 131 inmates at prisons in Oregon and Washington from 1963-71.

The experiments on 67 men at Oregon State Prison and 64 at Washington State Prison were first disclosed in a 1976 lawsuit by 20 former prisoners and were summarized in a 1986 congressional study by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

But much of the data about the tests has only recently been declassified. Today's hearing is designed, in part, to determine whether compensation or medical follow-up is warranted. About half the prisoners are believed to be alive.

Funded by the old Atomic Energy Commission, now the Energy Department, the tests were to see how much radiation NASA's

astronauts could survive on trips to the moon.

But some of the prisoners have cited problems, including prostate cancer, loss of vision, testicular tumors and other diseases, that may have been caused by the research.

"We can be blamed for being duped, but nobody ever sat us down and explained what the tests were all about and what the complications were," Robert Garrison, 54, a former inmate, told the Washington Post.

The Oregon tests were carried out on prisoners 25 to 52 years old. Each signed a consent order, accepted a \$5 to \$10 payment and agreed to receive a vasectomy and \$100 more at the end of the irradiation.

Their testicles were irradiated in a single session with up to 120 times the annual occupational radiation limit for reproductive organs. All men later had vasectomies.

The Washington state tests were similar to Oregon's, with prisoners getting up to 80 times the annual radiation dosage. Six, however, did not have vasecto-

mies and it is not known whether any later fathered children.

The federal radiation committee has looked into hundreds of federally sponsored Cold War experiments since last year and is expected to make its report by next summer.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who prompted the governmentwide review, has criticized as "disturbing" the use of test subjects such as prisoners, pregnant women and mentally retarded children.

"This appearance of treating some citizens as 'expendable' ... is especially repugnant in a country that prides itself on its diversity and that has as its goal providing equal opportunity for all its citizens," she said.

(Circulation: 140,494 daily; 208,789 Sunday)

Committee hears radiation concerns

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A former Oregon prisoner whose testicles were bombarded with radiation in 1965 as part of a federally funded experiment asked a presidential panel Monday for medical follow-up and compensation.

Harold Bibeau, 52, told the panel he still feels pain from the surgical procedures accompanying the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. He said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up treatment.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau told the outreach subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The committee also heard from people who might have been exposed to radiation from intentional Cold War atmospheric releases from the Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington state.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early '70s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were

exposed to varying doses of radiation from an X-ray device so researchers could learn about the potential biological effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford nuclear reservation workers and on NASA astronauts.

Al Conklin, a Washington State Department of Health radiation expert, told the committee that eight prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary study were exposed to X-rays doses of 400 rads, but most received doses ranging from 7.5 to 100 rads. Medical journal reports of the studies indicate some inmates were exposed to doses as high as 650 rads.

A rad is a measurement of the amount of radiation absorbed by a material. A modern X-ray is about 1 rad or less.

One of the committee's goals is to determine whether the inmates gave informed consent to the experiments, said the panel's chairman, Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, president of the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles.

Bibeau, convicted of killing a man in 1963, was sentenced to 12 years in an Oregon state prison. In 1964, a fellow prisoner encouraged him to join the radiation program.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating in the experiments and given \$100 when they left prison.

GLENS FALLS - POST STAR

atters

11/17/94

been doing the past 20 years and now let us make sure the new administration will be unable to do the same.

I also read when New York state comptroller, H. Carl McCall, is planning the first audit of the state Legislature in 40 years. I bet the paper shredders in the state offices will be very busy before he even starts.

Walter K. Johnson
Lake Luzerne

Veteran always sought the truth

Editor:

On Oct. 21, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments issued its first interim report to the members of the Interagency Working Group appointed by the president.

An atomic veteran because of my October 1945 to February 1946 assignment as a U.S. Marine to occupation duty in Nagasaki, I have been engaged in varying degrees to obtain justice for atomic veterans, widows of atomic veterans and numerous genetically damaged children.

As explained to many members of Congress, before whom I have appeared with fellow veterans (most of whom were in terrible physical condition) and widows and children of veterans, that my reason for appearing was righteous indignation because we were deceived and lied to. We were good enough to be sent to such places as Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, etc., but sent to Nagasaki without even a word of warning as to the dangers of the plutonium residue that was everywhere we were assigned.

For the first time in all those years, we have an administration that is at last revealing the experimentation that was carried on with civilians and members of all branches of the military service. Aside from the

information being released in quantities by Hazel O'Leary, the secretary of energy, the advisory committee has already performed a great service as is evidenced by this first interim report.

A hard-working, nonpolitical and nongovernmental group, it has already held open hearings across the country with many more scheduled in the next several months. Lay people, defense plant workers, veterans, widows, etc., are all invited to tell their stories long-suppressed and denied.

Over the years, I have seen honest scientists have their careers ruined, veterans abused by members of Congress and VA officials, widows actually insulted and bullied by senators at hearings, all based upon deliberate deception and lies by government officials solely concerned with their own careers and turf.

This 14-member committee of experts in ethics, radiation oncology and biology, science and medical history, epidemiology, nuclear medicine and law with one public member is supported by a most dedicated nonpolitical staff of about 34 people, both full-time and part-time. As an example, at a recent hearing in San Francisco they heard from the widow of a soldier who was imprisoned near Hiroshima and pressed into service by the Japanese to help clean up after the atomic bomb. He was exposed to large amounts of radiation, was ill most of his life, had one genetically damaged child that lived and his wife suffered many miscarriages. For more than 40 years she and her husband were not only denied any assistance by the VA, but the government denied for years that he was ever in Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Her case has now been recognized.

For my own part, all I have ever sought is for the truth, for in the final analysis our democracy is built upon our government speaking the truth.

Walter G. Hooke
Cambridge

More evidence of human radiation experiments

By Lee Blumenthal

A presidential commission says it has, at least, circumstantial evidence the CIA engaged in Cold War human radiation experiments, but the agency steadfastly denies it had any involvement.

The experiments represent one of the darkest sides of the Cold War, and the secrets have been, and continue to be, closely held behind the veil of national security.

The committee, appointed by President Clinton earlier this year to report on the experiments and make possible recommendations on the thorny issue of compensation, asked half a dozen or so government agencies to review millions of documents dating back to the 1940s.

In addition to the CIA, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, as keeper of Atomic Energy Commission documents, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration all searched their files. A sketchy picture of their involvement in the experiments has begun to emerge.

The committee, in a report marking the halfway point of its year-long effort, said it has discov-

ered human radiation experiments may have been far more widespread than originally thought.

A 1986 congressional study, considered the most exhaustive review to date, found evidence of dozens of experiments, and according to estimates earlier this year, about 1,000 people or so were involved.

The committee, however, has found firm evidence of about 400 experiments and fragmentary evidence of an additional 1,000. Up to 23,000 people may have been involved.

In addition, the committee has evidence intentional radiation releases may have numbered in the hundreds rather than the 13 previously thought. Whether there were more releases at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state than just the infamous Green Run of 1949 remains unclear. The committee has asked the departments for more information on Hanford as it prepares for a Nov. 21 meeting in Spokane.

Classified information

Much of the information on the intentional releases remains classified, and the committee remains uncertain whether there will be public access to it. Even though the releases are thought to date back 30, 40 or 50 years, the de-

partments cite national security in denying information to the committee.

The CIA, with its black budget and cloak-and-dagger image, was assumed to have been deeply involved in the radiation experiments.

The agency, however, said no. "To date, CIA has found no records or other information indicating that it conducted or sponsored human radiation experiments," the committee said in its interim report.

The agency said it had electronically reviewed 34 million documents, manually reviewed 480,300 documents and conducted nearly 50 interviews. One problem is, no one outside the CIA knows how many documents the agency has. There is no card catalog.

The committee, however, said it has evidence CIA officers took part in Pentagon groups in which human radiation experiments were discussed and planned.

During the 1950s, the CIA conducted an "extensive" human experimentation program to find ways to control behavior using drugs, psychological methods and other means.

At various times, the experimentation program was code-named BLUEBIRD, ARTICHOKE and MKULTRA. The CIA program was a direct response to the mind-control techniques being used at the time by the Soviets, Chinese and North Koreans. Some subjects in the CIA experiments were given LSD and others subjected to brainwashing and other interrogation methods.

But some of the documents unearthed by the advisory committee hint at more sinister projects.

A 1963 CIA Inspector General report said MKULTRA was "concerned with research and development of chemical, biological and radiological materials capable of employment in clandestine opera-

The committee has evidence intentional radiation releases may have numbered in the hundreds rather than the 13 previously thought.

tions to control human behavior." —

The IG report also said radiation was considered an appropriate area of research under the MKULTRA charter.

CIA destroyed documents

The CIA told the committee experiments involving radiation were not carried out under the MKULTRA program, but all of the program's documents were deliberately destroyed in 1973 by order of then-CIA Director Richard Helms. Helms later told congressional investigators he ordered the files destroyed so that no one outside the agency would be embarrassed.

The CIA did discover a document, a month ago, which said of the work done under the ARTI-CHOKE program "in addition to hypnosis, chemical and psychiatric research, the following fields have been explored: other physical manifestations, including heat and cold, atmospheric and radiation."

While it does not confirm actual human experiments, the document showed the CIA did take a look at using radiation "as a possibility for the defensive and offensive use of brainwashing and other interrogating techniques," the committee said.

To hide its clinical biological and chemical testing, the CIA provided funding in the 1950s for a

wing at Georgetown University Hospital. The doctor who provided the cover had experimented with radiation therapy, and the CIA asked the AEC to help fund the project. The doctor told Congress in 1977 the CIA had helped to fund his research.

The CIA also had a memorandum of understanding with the AEC's Lawrence Livermore Laboratory covering a number of projects for its Office of Scientific Intelligence.

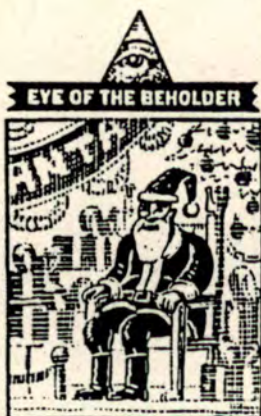
The agency continues to search for documents, but the clock is running rapidly on the committee's study.

Among the topics the committee wants the agency to explore in its files are Hanford's Green Run and CIA contact with government committees and panels in the 1950s that were involved in radiation research programs.

The committee also suggested the CIA look at some of the activities of the Soviets which may have "prompted" the U.S. to conduct its own human radiation experiments. One example, according to the committee, was in 1954 when the Soviet Union sent 40,000 troops into a test area just 30 minutes after an atomic bomb test.

Les Blumenthal writes for the McClatchy News Service.

Radiation Victims Protest Biased Investigation



© PETER KUPER

At the end of October, the President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Victims released its interim report, showing that the U.S. Government sponsored more human radiation experiments during the Cold War than ever before revealed. But radiation victims and their families are afraid that the committee's final report will be marred by questionable appointments and by a lack of representation of radiation victims.

The Task Force on Radiation and Human Rights, a national advocacy group for radiation victims and their families, is asking the White House to add seven members to the committee, including people sensitive to the plight of radiation victims and scientists with no ties to the military or other institutions that conducted human radiation research.

A number of committee members have direct links to human radiation research, or to the institutions now under ethical review for conducting that research.



CAROLE GALLAGHER

Ted Przygucki took photos as a soldier at two atomic blasts. From the book "American Ground Zero: The Secret Nuclear War."

"There are groups out there that were subjected to experiments. Those people were already hurt. They're looking to the committee to find some truth in all this," says Cooper Brown, a member of the Task Force on Radiation and Human Rights. "So if the committee finds that in a particular situation there was a

violation of medical ethics but no harm done, they may say, 'Well, these are people in the nuclear medicine field, or people coming out of the military who are being asked to pass judgment on the military—they are not telling the truth.'"

The Task Force has been quietly lobbying for balance on the committee, Brown says. "But we haven't had any response. We're realizing that the White House may be dragging its feet on this thing." A number of radiation victims are becoming impatient, and are publicly protesting the makeup of the committee.

Radiation victims advocate Geoffrey Sea told the Advisory Committee that he fears its final report, which is due next April, will say, "Thank God the doses were low and no harm was done. We need a memorial for these people and let's move ahead."

For more information, contact the National Committee for Radiation Victims, 6935 Laurel Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (202)775-8786.

Down with the World Bank

As the World Bank celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, it is under fire from activists, members of

DIVEST

Congress, and citizens of the countries suffering from environmental and social problems linked to the Bank's funding policies.

The most organized criticism of the World Bank comes from the 50 Years Is Enough campaign, comprised of more than 200 religious, environmental, labor, student, and human-rights organizations around the globe. The campaign is calling for the World Bank to open itself to public accountability, give decision-making power to women and the poor who are most affected by its policies, put an end to environmentally destructive practices, and reduce

the debt that is crushing the ability of Third World countries to finance real development.

Among the points raised by members of the campaign:

¶ The World Bank has lent tens of billions of dollars to dictatorial governments which trample the human rights of their own citizens. The Indonesian government, for example, received some \$630 million for the Transmigration Project, which forcibly relocated millions of poor Indonesians to rain-forest land to make way for Bank-funded dam construction.

¶ In the area of energy development, the Bank has overwhelmingly funded nonrenewable, polluting types of energy. Many construction projects have also caused significant environmental damage.

¶ By imposing "structural adjustment" programs, which eliminate subsidies on such basic items as food and fuel, the Bank increases the suffering of millions of people all over the Third World.

The 50 Years Is Enough campaign is conducting seminars and publishing pamphlets on the World Bank's harmful activities. The group has also pushed for legislation that holds Bank projects to democratic and environmental standards.

For more information, write 50 Years Is Enough, Suite 300, 1025 Vermont Avenue, Washington, DC 20005; (202)879-3187.

—KEVIN DANAHER
(Kevin Danaher is the editor of "50 Years Is Enough: The Case Against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.")

he is hesitant to hold Cold War researchers up to the Nuremberg Code.

Radiation panel mulls key issues

Victims worry election changes views

By Paul Barton

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - The presidential panel reviewing Cold War human radiation experiments is finally getting down to the issues that matter most for victims and their families - remedies and moral judgments.

The 14-member federal Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments panel is being watched every step of the way by victims' groups and others who believe the panel will be reluctant to condemn the scientists and doctors who carried out the experiments.

Others fret about how the Republican takeover of Congress will affect possible federal payments to the victims or their surviving family. Many of the House members and senators who spoke out for compensation last year have either been thrown out of Congress by the voters or, in the case of Democrats, been dethroned from the committee chairmanships from which they would have lobbied for compensation.

The advisory committee, which has uncovered hundreds of experiments, is now considering what it will say to the president and Congress about those who carried out the experiments and the need for compensation. The panel expects to make many decisions on those fronts within the next month. A final report to the president and Congress is expected in late spring or early summer.

The degree to which those who served as subjects of the experiments were fully informed remains the key issue. In many instances, documents show,

evidence of informed consent on the part of those subjects was sorely lacking, especially when compared with present practices.

Dr. Henry Royal, a radiation expert from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo., said it is important that the panel not unfairly pick on scientists who did radiation work.

"One of the most important things I think for the committee to determine is whether or not radiation experiments were conducted in a way that was similar to other medical experiments at the time, whether they were ethically worse or better," Royal said.

If radiation researchers believe they are being singled out, he said, the report could be "counterproductive."

Such talk worries representatives of radiation victims.

"You see this reluctance emerging about passing judgment on what went on in the past," said Cooper Brown of the National Committee for Radiation Victims.

The advisory committee is engaged in an exhaustive consideration of whether the 1947 Nuremberg Code should have applied to Cold War researchers. The code, developed in reaction to Nazi war crimes, outlined extensive steps that should be taken to inform subjects of medical experiments what will happen to them and all the possible medical ramifications.

The Defense Department adopted it as official policy in a 1953 secret memo. It's uncertain how widespread the word of the policy became with military researchers and contractors.

Jay Katz, a panel member and a Yale Law School professor, said

"If they (researchers) are judged by standards of informed consent, one has to appreciate that during those decades ('40s, '50s and early '60s) no one took informed consent very seriously," Katz said.

Dr. David Egilman of Brown University in Rhode Island, one of the most outspoken critics of the experiments, said the Nuremberg Code was well publicized and that similar informed consent standards had been published by the American Medical Association in 1946.

"We killed German physicians based on the Nuremberg Code and it was applied retroactively to them," he said.

Ruth Faden, the chairman of the advisory committee, declined to commit herself on whether the committee will render judgments. "We'll see," she said.

On possible remedies for victims and their families, the committee is looking at writing guidelines that Congress could use in deciding compensation amounts related to various experiments.

Kenneth Feinberg, law professor at Georgetown University, said a key issue in deciding the need for compensation is the degree of government "culpability" in the experiments.

The remedies could range from cash to simple apologies or a combination.

The more likely that the government can show to have been wrong in its supervision of researchers or outside contractors, the better the remedy would have to be, he said.

"I don't think we are going to make reference to specific experiments. We're going to set out specific guidelines to apply any experiment to those guidelines," he said.

To make reference to specific experiments puts the panel at risk of leaving some out, he said. Congress would have to decide which groups are compensated, he said.

Sagan: Full Radiation Story Untold

By SHANNON BAYNHAM
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — To refute Congressional reports that American doctors used patients as "willing guinea pigs" in radiation experiments after World War II, national expert Dr. Leonard Sagan addressed the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness Monday night.

Sagan, former research director for the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Nagasaki, Japan, and current head of radiation health studies at the Electric Power Research Institute, was the keynote speaker for the third annual Teller Lecture Series sponsored by CNTA.

Also during the program, Dr. Ruth Patrick and Dr. Eugene P. Odum received awards for their pioneering environmental work at the Savannah River Site.

During an introduction, CNTA Board Chairman Dr. Fred C. Davidson said Sagan was a person who "knew the facts" about radiation experiments and could allay public fears.

"Most of what the public believes about radiation is based on fragments of information or emotional responses, not the whole story," Dr. Davidson said.

According to Sagan, Congressional reports and media news stories have misinformed readers, reinforcing the general distrust of government-sponsored medical experiments.

"We have enough distrust in government without casting dispersions on the credibility of government research in science," Dr. Sagan said.

"When these experiments are compared to the horrors of what went on in Nazi concentration camps, the character of reputable

scientists are besmirched," he said.

In 1986, a Congressional Inquiry, "American Nuclear Guinea Pigs: Three Decades of Radiation Experiments on U.S. Citizens," was first published but received little attention.

According to the report, citizens "became nuclear calibration devices...who...became willing guinea pigs...or populations that experimenters might frighteningly have considered 'expendable': the elderly, prisoners, hospital patients...."

A few years later, a reporter from the *Albuquerque Tribune* wrote about a case from the report where 18 terminally ill elderly patients were unknowingly injected with small doses of plutonium between 1945-1947.

She received a Pulitzer Prize, and U.S. Secretary Hazel O'Leary ordered a full investigation to disclose all government-sponsored experiments and award compensation.

Sagan said other experiments were listed in the *New York Times* newspaper and *Times* magazine, comparing them to experiments conducted during the Holocaust. One of the American experiments that received attention was prisoners who were knowingly exposed to X-rays on their testicles to study the effect on sperm development.

Sagan said many media reports failed to present the whole story or the final results.

Of the 18 elderly patients injected with plutonium, none of them are believed to have died from the injection.

Plutonium is a highly toxic and radioactive element, and the greatest risk for the 18 patients was developing bone cancer.

Sagan said that before the injections, none were expected to live more than 10 years.

After they were injected, nine died in five years, four lived beyond their normal life expectancy — one who died in 1983 at age 85 — but none died of bone cancer.

On the issue of using prisoners, Sagan said that testing might have been morally unethical but was common.

"The use of prisoner volunteers was widely accepted at time."

Today, it is believed that prisoners do not have the personal freedom or rights to deny volunteering if he or she wanted to.

Sagan said the main question was whether or not each patient was fully informed.

"It used to be that physicians didn't inform their patients of anything they were doing. Doctors were little kings in their own domain as little as 50 years ago. Nothing previous to that time was done with patient's consent," he said.

"If we are to judge those experiments on the basis of today's ethical standards for medical experimentation, certainly there is valid judgement."

In 1994, legal imperatives require that medical experiments can not be conducted without full informed consent. Physicians generally agree.

Sagan said that even when pa-

CONTINUED

tients are fully informed, the problem continues because studies show that few understand when they are part of an experiment that could be harmful.

After his speech, Dr. Patrick and Dr. Odum were presented awards.

Dr. Patrick first studied the effects of Savannah River Site on the Savannah River's ecosystem, and the person after which the USCA Aiken Ruth Patrick Science Center is named. She has also served as president of the American Society of Naturalists and has lead ecological expeditions to countries around the world.

Dr. Odum was noted as the "father of modern ecology" and the person responsible for establishing the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory operated on Site by the University of Georgia.

He has received other awards including the Crafoord Prize, an equivalent to the Nobel Prize which is not awarded in ecology.

Saenger defends radiation tests

He says treatments helped ease suffering

BY PAUL BARTON

Enquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Cincinnati's Dr. Eugene Saenger defended his human radiation experiments in a paper written last month and submitted to the presidential panel appointed to review Cold War experiments.

In the document submitted to the federal Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, he defended whole-body radiation treatments he conducted at Cincinnati General Hospital, now University Hospital.

Saenger said that by and large, the experiments were successful as palliative measures — treat-



Saenger

ments designed to ease suffering.

"It is important to realize that in any given patient, it is not possible to determine objectively whether death occurred too soon or was prolonged as a result of cancer treatment," Saenger wrote.

Saenger also defended himself on the charge that he failed to follow proper informed consent procedures, which the committee's staff criticized him for on Monday.

Although the committee has uncovered numerous Pentagon documents from the 1950s and 1960s calling on military researchers to

follow exhaustive informed consent procedures, Saenger said none was passed on to him. During the life of the contract, he said, "no official statement of DoD (Department of Defense) policy was provided or sent to UC."

Ronald Neumann, a George Washington University expert on nuclear medicine and a member of the committee staff, said Saenger's work represented "poor science" for several reasons, not the least of which was his lack of "protocol," clearly outlining the scope and purposes of the research and how success would be measured.

In the context of the 1960s, he said, Saenger's work was not that bad. But "I find very little of use that came of this work."

Meanwhile, the presidential committee uncovered additional Pentagon documents from the Cold

War that showed government officials thought it was wrong to subject healthy volunteers to radiation experiments but had no such qualms about subjecting hospital patients to such treatments.

"Since the need is pressing, it would appear mandatory to take advantage of investigation opportunities that exist in certain radiology centers by conducting special examinations and measures of patients who are undergoing radiation treatment for disease," a 1950 Air Force document said.

Much of the panel's discussion Monday concerned the type of patients the UC doctors selected.

"These survival data suggest that, although the patients may have had incurable cancers, many of them were in reasonably good health and were not 'terminal' at that point," the staff reported.

Saenger's radiation tests 'of little use,' expert says

By Bill Straub
Post-Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Several members of a panel reviewing Cold War-era human radiation experiments say Dr. Eugene Saenger was more concerned with providing data to the Department of Defense than addressing the suffering of his patients at Cincinnati General Hospital.

At best, said Dr. Ron Neumann, senior policy analyst for the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the UC radiologist was involved in "sloppy medical research" and "poor science" during the 11

years he spent conducting total-body irradiation research.

The experiments, Neumann told the panel Monday, resulted in "very little of use" to the medical community. Saenger failed to so much as outline what he hoped to accomplish on behalf of his 88 subjects.

And in some cases, the experiments proved immediately harmful. One document before the panel maintains that a cancer patient, identified as Maud Jacobs, was home caring for her children one day in 1964 when she was called to the hospital for treatment. Ms. Jacobs became "violently ill" the next day and died 25 days later.

Cincinnati Post November 15, 1994
Page One

Saenger's UC patients not told of risk, panel says

BY PAUL BARTON

Enquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Dr. Eugene Saenger did not adequately warn patients of the risk of death from his human radiation experiments at Cincinnati's General Hospital a generation ago and his work represented "poor science," the staff of a presidential panel said Monday.

Saenger's work received its most detailed review yet from the staff of the federal Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, which President Clinton appointed earlier this year to review the work of Cold War experiments.

"It's clear one thing they (patients) weren't told was the potential risk of death," said Gary Stern, a panel staff member who has been looking at Saenger's work.

Inside: Saenger paper defends tests, A3

Although Saenger's work involved terminally ill cancer patients, the whole-body radiation blasts he subjected them to exposed them to a quicker death "than they would otherwise realize," Stern said.

Saenger's work, funded mostly by the Pentagon, was carried out by him and a team of University of Cincinnati researchers from 1960 to 1971. General Hospital is now known as University Hospital. The work involved whole or total-body irradiation of 88 cancer patients.

The Pentagon was interested in the effects of radiation on the human body so that it could better prepare soldiers for the nuclear battlefield.

Cincinnati Enquirer
Page One
November 15, 1994

Agencies rate risks differently

Glenn scolds regulators, demands 'coherent' standards on radiation exposure

By TED WENDLING

PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

10A

What is an acceptable level of risk to radiation exposure?

The Environmental Protection Agency considers a range of 1 in 15,000 premature cancer deaths to 1 in 1.5 million deaths from exposure to a Superfund cleanup site as acceptable.

But the same agency also considers 1 in 40 deaths from indoor radon exposure as an acceptable mortality rate.

Citing a recent report by the General Accounting Office that says five federal agencies have proposed or are enforcing 26 different radiation-exposure standards, Sen. John Glenn yesterday issued an ultimatum to three of the agencies: Either submit a plan within 90 days to create "rational and coherent" radiation-safety standards or Congress will do the job for you.

The GAO report, "Nuclear Health and Safety: Consensus on Acceptable Radiation Risk to the Public is Lacking," highlights

'When you've got such an assorted hodgepodge of standards throughout the government, I don't think the public's interest is being served.'

SEN. JOHN GLENN

several stunning disparities and incongruities in the radiation-exposure limits federal agencies have set.

For instance, the EPA's proposed standard for drinking water would permit radium at a level expected to cause death from cancer in one out of every 14,000 people while allowing radon at a level that would anticipate one death in every 5,000 people.

"Through the years, there has been considerable debate over 'how safe is safe' when it comes to the public's exposure to radiation," said Glenn, an Ohio Democrat and chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee. "That debate has, in part, resulted in

the government taking a piecemeal approach in implementing public protection regulations.

"When you've got such an assorted hodgepodge of standards throughout the government," he added, "I don't think the public's interest is being served."

The GAO report and Glenn's ultimatum appeared to blindsides officials at the EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, whom Glenn called on to take the lead. Spokesmen for both agencies said administrators had not seen the GAO report and couldn't discuss it.

A phone call to the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, which Glenn asked to assist the EPA and NRC, was not returned.

The GAO study found that cost-benefit analyses done by federal agencies to determine the amount of radiation to which people may be subjected are complex and controversial — not to mention macabre.

"Such factors may include ethical concerns, equitable sharing of costs and benefits, perceived public aversion to radiation at any exposure level, and costs and benefits to people who have been defined as not within the at-risk

population," the authors wrote. They noted that agencies would be subject to criticism "if their cost-benefit analyses are perceived as being inequitable or unfairly placing monetary values on human lives."

The report says most agencies have not established cost-benefit ratios that attach a dollar value to avoided deaths. The one exception it cites is an NRC benchmark of \$2 million expended per hypothetical death avoided.

The calculation is intended to assist utilities in designing protection standards into nuclear reactors.

While acknowledging recent efforts by the EPA and NRC to "harmonize" their regulations, the GAO nevertheless found that "duplicative, potentially conflicting regulations" are being enforced by EPA, NRC and the Department of Energy. In part, that has been due to squabbles about radiation-protection strategies and risk-calculation methods, the authors wrote.

The GAO also addressed problems resulting from the overestimation of risks, saying it could "lead to levels of regulatory dose and risk limitation that require large expenditures for compliance but do not necessarily significantly reduce the health risk to the public."

Glenn has said he is considering legislation that would create a separate radiation regulatory agency. Legislation he sponsored in 1979 resulted in President Carter's creation of a federal radiation policy council. It was later disbanded by President Reagan.

40fcl

Local radiation study nets Japanese award

By Jonathan Weisman
STAFF WRITER

LIVERMORE — Mortimer Mendelsohn, the former director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's biomedical division, has become the second American to earn the emperor of Japan's Third Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Mendelsohn was awarded the honor for his work as vice-chairman of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima, which studies the long-term health effects of the atomic blasts.

Mendelsohn told lab officials he was not sure specifically why he was given the honor, the highest the Japanese bestow on foreigners.

But medical researcher Jon Gofman, who preceded Mendelsohn as the lab's biomedical chief, suggested it might have to do with a series of reports recently released by his respected foundation and championed by Mendelsohn.

Those reports say there is no safe level of radiation exposure.

Traditionally, many scientists have held that human cells can repair damage done by low doses of radiation. That would create a threshold of radiation dosage under which exposure is safe.

The Innocents of WWII?

Japan: Its 'victim' mentality goes back to Hiroshima—and reaches to trade

By BILL POWELL

YOU LICK IT. YOU STICK IT AND you forget it. In most cases, a stamp is a stamp is a stamp. But when it bears the following inscription: "Atomic bombs hasten war's end," under the image of a billowing mushroom cloud ... well, that is no ordinary stamp.

Old soldiers may just fade away, but old wars emphatically do not. Not, in particular, during big anniversary years, when the chain that links past to present snaps taut—as it has now, in anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Scabs that had hardened are picked at anew. Just two weeks ago the Japanese Foreign Ministry admitted publicly that it had failed to notify Washington of its intention to wage war against the United States. With documents detailing the snafu, the Japanese government apologized to its own people—not to Americans—for the attack that led to its nation's utter destruction four years later.

The chain of events that Pearl Harbor started, 53 years ago this week, leads straight to the most contentious and emotional issue: the U.S. decision to end the

war in the Pacific by dropping two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Controversy has already engulfed the planned display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum of part of the Enola Gay—the plane that dropped the Little Boy on Hiroshima—and the U.S. Postal Service's plan to issue a commemorative atom-bomb stamp caused a diplomatic incident with Japan. At the end of last week, Tokyo's Foreign Minister Yohei Kono was considering a formal diplomatic protest. "If necessary, I want to convey Japanese feelings to the U.S. side in some form," he said.

The emotions stirred by the Hiroshima debate are only in the narrowest sense about

what constitutes "good" or "bad" history. Wars, particularly one fought on the scale of World War II, are defining events, shaping for decades, if not centuries, not just geopolitical maps, but also how entire nations come to see themselves and their place in the world. For America, World War II will always be the "Good War." The raid on Pearl Harbor jolted the country out of an isolationist stupor, and its intervention in the war against fascism was as plain a triumph of good versus evil as recent history provides. It supplied the moral underpinning for the long struggle against communism that ensued. To imply, as the Smithsonian exhibit's early scripts did, that a moral cause was concluded in an immoral fashion enrages many Americans—particularly those who came of age during the war. The Smithsonian's curators have felt their wrath, and are now on their fifth version of the Enola Gay's script.

To the Japanese, by contrast, the discussion that Americans are now having about Hiroshima is utterly alien. Hiroshima and Nagasaki allowed the Japanese to believe that they were as much victim as aggressor in World War II. It is an attitude that took hold in the war's aftermath, when there was little

CONTINUED

interest in a historical reckoning. A true coming to terms would have divided Japanese society; and there was a cold war on, after all, so if the Japanese in their educational system minimized Japan's war making in the Pacific, what did it matter?

The bombings became a kind of psychic salve for the nation; in the Japanese eye they were acts so barbaric that they effectively canceled out, on the Great Moral Scale, whatever atrocities Japan had committed during the war. Most reject out of hand the view that the bombing may have actually saved lives—both Japanese and American. To raise that possibility is to impugn the memory of the bomb's victims.

As author Ian Buruma wrote recently in "The Wages of Guilt: Memories of War in Germany and Japan," "Hiroshima in Japan is more than a symbol of national martyrdom; Hiroshima is a symbol of absolute evil, often compared to Auschwitz."

Small nation: Japan's sense of victimization reinforces a cherished self-image: that of a small, defenseless, virtually resource-free nation that must occasionally bear the burdens of bullies elsewhere in the world. It's a pose that to this day Tokyo sometimes adopts to great effect during trade negotiations with the United States: any effort to pry open Japanese markets is invariably portrayed as America's "bashing" or "bullying" Japan. Not surprisingly, when the Smithsonian asked the curators at Hiroshima's famous Peace Memorial Museum for assistance, the Japanese were eager to comply. The museum is, as Buruma wrote, "the mecca of Japanese victimhood." For years it has displayed harrowing, deeply moving images of the destruction that occurred on Aug. 6—but no shred of information about what, if anything, had come before it.

Now, as the Smithsonian slowly bends to the protests of U.S. veterans groups, the Peace Memorial Museum managers are rethinking their cooperation with the exhibit. The mayor of Hiroshima wrote to Vice President Al Gore protesting the change in the exhibit's tone: "The mentality which justifies not only the dropping of the atomic bomb, but also war itself, makes us, the citizens of Hiroshima, angry and sad." The new atom-bomb stamp will make cooperation even more problematic. Said Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima last week in a released statement: "Under the

mushroom cloud, tens of thousands of children, women and civilians were injured or killed."

Japan's reaction to the debate, though predictable, is also ironic; it comes when the country has moved to provide (as the Smithsonian is now doing) more "context" to its own discussion about the war, including in its museums. A grisly traveling exhibition detailing the atrocities of Japan's notorious Unit 731—which conducted medical experiments on innocents—has drawn massive crowds. Even at the Peace Memorial Museum itself, a newly renovated wing was opened in June, showing that Hiroshima was home to mammoth munitions factories

as well as what was then the country's second most important military school.

Still, for many in Japan, Hiroshima remains beyond reasoned historical discussion. "We can never accept an interpretation of history that justifies the bombing," insists Peace Museum director Hiroshi Harada. There are those—including some of the younger members of the Smithsonian staff—who would accuse the U.S. veterans groups of a similar rigidity. Early on, a planning document from the exhibit urged that the display "resist the dogmatic belief in the official explanation that dropping the bomb prevented a bloody invasion."

For the next eight months, as the controversy builds, that question will be front and center. Did the bomb prevent an invasion of Japan that would have made Normandy look like a training exercise, or not? The subject is of fierce dispute among historians. But as J. Samuel Walker, chief historian at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, wrote recently, "The historical consensus . . . which held that the bomb was used primarily for military reasons [i.e., to avoid a bloody invasion of Japan] . . . continues to prevail." That such a "consensus" has done little to change Japan's view of things is not surprising. National mythology dies hard anywhere. As for the Smithsonian, the Enola Gay exhibit—version five—opens in May. The millions who will attend will be the final arbiter as to its value. Then, perhaps mercifully, the anniversaries of 1995 will finally be over, and it'll be 50 long years before we see the likes of them again.

With ROBIN SPARKMAN in New York,
PETER MCKILLOP and
KAY ITOI in Tokyo

NATIONAL MARKET COVERAGE

TRANSCRIPT

FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STATION CNN-TV
PROGRAM World Today CITY Washington, D.C.
DATE October 21, 1994 6:20 PM AUDIENCE
SUBJECT Human Radiation Treatments

BROADCAST EXCERPT

BERNARD SHAW: A presidential panel released a report today saying hundreds of secret human radiation experiments were conducted by the United States government following World War 2.

Although information on these experiments has been previously disclosed, CNN's Mark Feldstein reports this is the first evidence so many Americans were used as human guinea pigs.

MARK FELDSTEIN: During the cold war, the U.S. government waged a secret battle, not only against communism, but also against its own citizens.

DORIS BAKER [Granddaughter of Radiation Victim]: What happened to babies, little children, pregnant women, mentally impaired people, and prisoners, most of which were black. Will someone please tell me why did our government let this happen?

FELDSTEIN: But it was the government that was conducting scientific experiments on its people, releasing radiation in the air, injecting patients with plutonium, usually in secret without consent.

On Friday, a presidential panel announced that it has already uncovered more than 400 of these experiments, with more to come.

DR. RUTH FADEN [Advisory Cmte. on Human Radiation Experiments]: We don't know yet what fraction of those experiments, which now are 400 and tomorrow will be 450 and will probably be in the thousands by the time we finish, involved the use of subjects in studies that offered no prospect or little prospect of benefit to the subjects.

FELDSTEIN: Perhaps thousands of Americans were turned into unwitting human guinea pigs, all justified as a way to research how

humans are affected by radiation and how they would survive a nuclear war.

SENATOR JOHN GLENN [(D) Ohio]: Some of the experiments that were done, done intentionally on people without their knowledge, I find intolerable, even in the days of the cold war. And obviously, what we want assurances are that there's nothing like that being done today.

FELDSTEIN: But the full extent of the damage may never be known. Nearly a half century after the experiments first began, even the presidential panel can't get access to all of the classified documents.

STEVEN AFTERGOOD [Federation of American Scientists]: These scientists and these agencies were allowed to conduct these kinds of experiments under the cloak of secrecy. They were not made accountable to the public, they were not even accountable to Congress or some leaders of their own agency and, as a result, they did all kinds of stupid and occasionally criminal things.

FELDSTEIN: The panel found that government officials at the highest levels debated the ethics of these experiments but decided to go ahead anyway.

A final report is expected this spring to determine how bad the scandal was and what can be done now. One key question, whether to compensate the people who were victimized by their own government.

Mark Feldstein, CNN, Washington.

Fear of radiation is hindering treatments 65



WARREN LONGMIRE

Breast cancer will claim more women's lives if they fall victim to an unfounded fear of radiation and lose confidence in today's safe diagnostic methods.

The amount of radiation from a mammogram is less than that from an X-ray of a fractured wrist.

As a family physician, the phobia of radiation gives me great concern. Most of us do not realize the extent to which illogical fears have wasted health care dollars.

Hospitals and medical labs that produce low-level radioactive wastes now must set aside precious space and money for facilities to store the waste.

That is because anti-nuclear scaremongers have succeeded in blocking the development of central waste repositories. Funds that otherwise might go toward cancer research are being earmarked for temporary waste storage at hospitals.

Radiation controversies have greatly exaggerated fears about cancer. The same people who see dangers

in cellular telephones are terrorizing people about nuclear medicine.

They now are proclaiming an unrealistic danger in mammography screening. And they are pressuring the medical community to stop using radioactive materials to diagnose and treat cancer.

As part of their strategy, a handful of irresponsible scientists have fostered the impression that there is a raging scientific controversy about the effects of radiation.

In fact, there is remarkable scientific consensus on the relative risks associated with radiation.

An example of that consensus is a recent report from the American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs — the product of a large task force of physicians, physicists, chemists, public health experts and other authorities.

The report concludes that radiation from man-made sources like nuclear power plants is small compared to natural background levels.

Radiation is arguably the most thoroughly studied and understood environmental phenomenon in nature, in part because it is so easily measured.

That ease of detection is also responsible for some of the fear it engenders; it is easy to assume that if something can be measured, it must be dangerous.

In a similar way, chemophobia — the fear of man-made pesticides and industrial chemicals — has been growing in recent years because it has become possible to measure potentially toxic chemicals in parts per billion, rather than in parts per million, as was the case several years ago.

As women try to protect themselves from breast cancer, the worst thing they can do is retreat into fear-driven ignorance.

The anti-nuclear campaigners and their champions are not required to observe the overarching principle of Hippocrates: First, do no harm.

By sensationalizing the subject of radiation, they are indeed doing harm to biomedical research and to health.

Warren T. Longmire Jr. practices family medicine in Hitchcock.

Cold War's nuclear victims force compensation from feds

By Sharon Cohen

FERNALD, OHIO

DAVID Chalk worked in secrecy for decades, helping the government process uranium for nuclear weapons during the Cold War. That conflict is over, but he feels he's still paying the price — with his health.

Chalk believes the bone cancer that ravaged his left upper arm and required 30 cobalt treatments is tied to radiation exposure, though he's never been able to prove it.

Now, at 64, a decade after heart trouble forced him to retire, he may be compensated by the government — not for physical injury, but for emotional distress.

To him, there's little to celebrate.

"This ain't going to bring your health back," he says, his raspy voice trailing off in frustration. "Even if you got a million dollars, it won't do that. And mine is shot."

For some there is rancor, for others relief as another chapter comes to a close in the nation's troubled nuclear history.

After a 4½-year legal struggle, a federal judge in Cincinnati will hold a hearing Tuesday on a proposed settlement for workers of the Feed Materials Production Center at Fernald.

This tentative \$20 million agreement is believed the first time the government has agreed to pay a group of former workers at a nuclear weapons plant for emotional distress, including fears of increased risk of cancer.

And, while admitting no wrongdoing, the government also will pick up the tab for medical monitoring, or annual physicals, for those people as long as they live: An initial \$5 million of the total will be set aside to cover them.

"The government has finally come to the conclusion that there has to be resolution," said Stanley Chesley, a prominent Cincinnati at-

torney who represented the Fernald employees in the class-action suit.

"It's time to get straight with the American worker."

But former workers at the Ohio plant, which closed in 1989, are divided about how much they really won.

"It was a psychological victory for me that we got something. We did count," said Martha Adams, one of seven people representing thousands of workers in the suit, which was settled this summer in the middle of the trial.

"I feel it's fair," said James Johnson, another of the seven named plaintiffs. "As citizens, we don't need to bankrupt the government."

But others who are sick or alarmed by studies suggesting former plant workers had higher cancer rates and shorter life spans are disappointed.

"I look back at my life at Fernald and it just makes you want to break down and cry, knowing what you've been exposed to all those years," laments Floyd Grubb, who said he was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1986. "The government got what they wanted during the Cold War. Now, they've turned their backs on us."

And Jim Dorton, another of the seven representatives, says the case increased his anxiety because he saw his medical records and learned more about the medical fate of co-workers. "What have I gained? Nothing," he declared.

A judge still must approve the settlement after Tuesday's hearing. Workers' attorneys insist the case was not about huge awards but about changing policy, which was accomplished: The agreement removes major obstacles in collecting worker compensation.

Still, the financial conclusion is ironic: Defense lawyers stand to collect more than workers who say their lives have been damaged.

Millions to fight workers

After legal and other fees are deducted, the Fernald group probably will divvy up \$8 million to \$9 million — compared with more than \$15 million the Energy Department acknowledges it spent on lawyers hired by the contractor to fight workers. "Who's the winner here?" Dorton said. "We have sued ourselves and our fellow countrymen."

In fact, the Energy Department says it has spent \$70 million on legal fees to defend nuclear plant contractors over the past five years.

In this suit, National Lead of Ohio Inc., which managed the plant until 1985, and its parent company, National Lead Industries Inc., were accused of knowingly exposing workers and subcontractors to excessive, even deadly levels of radiation — then concealing the risks. It is the second big Fernald case. In 1989, the Energy Department reached a \$78 million settlement with area residents, who claimed emotional distress as well as lower property values.

The plant, 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati and now called the Fernald Environmental Management Project, processed uranium for nuclear weapons from 1953 until 1987. A 20-year clean-up is under way, estimated to cost billions.

Survivors getting old

In settling, defense attorney David Bernick says one goal was to stem further legal costs.

And though Bernick said he understands workers' health anxieties, "I don't think those concerns are founded in the science."

While money was a factor, so, too, was time. Nearly a third of Fernald workers are dead.

Most survivors are in their 60s or 70s and "have health problems and need medical monitoring now," said Louise Roselle, another worker attorney. "They can't wait four or five years."

CONTINUED

At least 30 percent of 6,400 Fernald employees, widows and subcontractors probably will seek compensation, Roselle said. Their share will depend, in part, on their length of service.

Since this case was not about physical injury, key health questions remain unresolved. Each side had their experts and numbers.

Roselle contends that in a population the size of Fernald workers, there should be one case of leukemia; instead, there were 16.

One study found Fernald workers died at a median age of 58, five years younger than the U.S. median at the time, and had significantly higher rates of lung, blood, gastrointestinal and lymph cancer.

Those findings upset Dorton, who at 57, said he now finds himself racing through household projects. "I feel like I'm rushed," he said. "I'm going to run out of time."

But other research contradicted those findings, and Bernick was prepared to present testimony showing no increased incidence of radiation-related illness.

Those who are suffering don't buy it.

"It's pretty hard to prove where you got cancer, but there's no doubt in my mind," said Chalk, who recalls how his respirator would fall off when he used a jackhammer to dig out sludge from furnaces. "It was like breathing coal dust. I was 21. You didn't know what danger you were really in."

In the past, every claim was challenged, Roselle said, with workers and widows facing high-powered lawyers and teams of experts in hearings that frequently dragged on for 10 years. Less than a handful prevailed. Even then, there was little to show.

Herbert Kelly, a 27-year Fernald veteran, waged a seven-year battle to win total permanent disability after exposure to radium, thorium and uranium.

"They ridiculed him ... and treated him like a dog. It was just terrible," said his widow, Corilla. "He fought for so long for so little. ... It took the life out of that man."

Can't undo history

In June, Herbert Kelly died of cancer. He was 65. His case was still on appeal. Now, his widow will not have to start over.

"I would like to see more monetary gain, and I know he would have," she said. "But I'm tickled to death no one will have to go what he went through."

Roselle said this settlement goes as far as the law permits in righting wrongs. But she concedes it is no panacea.

"Can we undo history? No," she said. "In the best of all possible worlds, you'd like to make these men 35 years old and healthy again, but you know I can't do that."

"When you are going up against the United States government, there aren't big victories. You don't take huge jumps. You take steps. This is a step."

Sharon Cohen is the AP's Midwest regional reporter, based in Chicago.

My Word

U.S. government deserves our trust on this one

By Edward Fleming

YOUR Sept. 4 editorial entitled "Our guinea pig citizens" was very disturbing indeed, not because it revealed a terrible truth, but because it left the reader with an impression so distorted that it again casts serious doubt on whether we should place any trust in our institutions, especially governmental. The impression is that in January 1965, the Atomic Energy Commission, the U.S. Public Health Service and their "rogue scientists" conspired to conduct another experiment on unsuspecting citizens without their consent. Further, one of our alert House members, Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., "cited documents released in recent weeks" revealing this "intentional accident" involving a "nuclear-powered rocket at the Nevada Test Site."

Well, Markey is sure alert; alert enough to play the part of the archetypical politician grubbing for headlines, with the Alameda Newspaper Group only too happy to accommodate him and his disgusting ilk.

Consider these facts:

1. This test, dubbed KIWI-TNT (for transient nuclear test) was the intentional destruction of a nuclear rocket engine affixed to a stationary test bed (not a test of a nuclear rocket). The state of California and all the counties to be affected were notified well ahead of time. The media was invited to witness the test. They took countless pictures and published them widely and rapidly. The national television networks reported on the test that same evening, and the newspapers published accounts the day of the test and for many days after.

2. There were more than 100 atomic tests that, with intent, released radioactive debris from the test site from 1945 to 1963.

3. These tests were conducted within strict guidelines set with the scientific knowledge of effects of radiation at the time. Many times tests were postponed

because the predicted meteorology was such that radioactivity would be deposited in the wrong direction, in unacceptable amounts, or that shock was delayed for similar reasons for four days before being carried out.

4. These tests were conducted openly with the blessings of presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson, as well as those of the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the full Senate and House, and therefore the citizens of the United States.

Now you come along and, with little or no knowledge of the times in which all this was considered reasonable and acceptable, cast it all as a great conspiracy by "rogues." These "rogues" were among the finest scientists, engineers, govern-

mental officials (appointed and elected) and just superb human beings in the history of our country. They not only loved their country, they loved humanity, and would do nothing knowingly to harm anyone. Along with those presidents, there were giants such as Sumner Pike, Bourke Hickenlooper, Chet Hollifield, Craig Hosmer, Howard Baker, Henry DeWolf Smyth, Willard Libby, John von Neumann, Glenn

Seaborg, Mary Bunting and Dob Hollingsworth, to name a small fraction.

Experimentation without knowledge and consent is a horrible practice and cannot be condoned, no matter how valuable the findings might be. The test you wrote about cannot rationally be put into such a category.

As has been suggested many times on these pages, you'd serve the community better by doing your homework before writing about a subject you know nothing about. Depending solely on a U.S. congressman for your information is a dangerous practice if you mean to convey a message accurately.

Edward H. Fleming lives in Pleasanton.

The state of California
and all the counties
to be affected were
notified well ahead of
time. The media was invited
to witness the test . . .

Crusader for radiation treatment quits vet group

Stuart Farber says the president of the organization has blocked his efforts to inspect its records and confirm claims.

By Lawrence Spohn
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Claims that more than 100,000 Americans are actively seeking help for radium treatments they received decades ago may not be accurate, a radiation health assessment scientist says.

Stuart Farber, former science adviser for the Submarine Survivors Group in Quincy, Mass., quit the organization Thursday, saying scientific credibility is at stake in making an honest case for help to Congress and the American people.

He charged that for months he has been unable to independently confirm a variety of public and private claims made by the organization, including that tens of thousands of people have contacted the group for help.

"I don't know what's real and what's not, and I don't want to be misleading anyone," said Farber, a Rhode Island specialist in radiation assessment who raised the first public alarm about the treatment.

For more than a decade, Farber has been on a personal crusade — culminating with a article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1992 — to get government and medical attention for veterans who received radium treatments during and after

World War II.

The treatment involved placing a rod, tipped with a radioactive radium source, up the nostrils for several minutes each.

Farber estimates that as many as 40,000 Navy and Air Force personnel may have received large doses of radiation, potentially exposing them to higher risks for certain cancers and thyroid disease.

Additionally, between 200,000 and 400,000 civilians may have gotten the treatment for a variety of ailments as late as the mid-1970s, Farber has estimated.

The submarine group's president, Jim Garrity, has consistently refused to allow Farber and others to inspect or confirm the organization's records, including any funds that may have been collected to support the effort.

Farber said Garrity also has played cat and mouse with the Veterans Affairs Administration, which has been trying to investigate the issue since summer. Garrity canceled a meeting this week with VA officials.

Garrity, who organized the group and developed an alliance with Farber after reading articles about him and the treatment, said late Thursday that meetings with VA doctors and scientists have been put on hold.

"My attorney's are handling it," he said.

Garrity, a submariner who received the nasal radiation treatment, said he was diagnosed with nasopharyngeal cancer early this year after reading news accounts and seeking medical help.

"Yes, I am obstructing the VA," Garrity said Thursday, explaining that he is protecting veterans

America's
ATOMIC
Fallout

Please see VET/A9

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

ERQUE TRIBUNE

VET from A1

Page A8

who have confided in him, and their records, from VA scrutiny that might endanger compensation claims.

He said VA bureaucrats had threatened to "red flag" the files.

He said his records have been moved out of his home to safe keeping, but that he still is getting calls from concerned vets and civilians who received the treatment and that the to-

tal number is in excess of 100,000.

"The VA is just blowing a smoke screen," he said. Officials have refused to open VA hospitals to veterans who claim their illnesses are related to the radium treatment, he said.

"I need those hospitals and they won't give them to me," Garrity said, adamantly. "My guys need help and they need help right away, not in five years after some study."

He said he has only received \$100

in donations and his lawyers have the money. He said the break with Farber began when Farber tried to incorporate the organization legally and make changes or additions without consulting Garrity.

Farber said he attempted to make the organization functional, responsive and accountable, to create a newsletter and seek foundation or government support.

Searching for cows and other answers

Where were the cows? That's just one of the difficult questions that will have to be answered if authorities are to gauge the impact of releases of radioactive iodine from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the late 1940s and early '50s.

Iodine-131 is one of the priority pollutants being evaluated by a panel established to look at the relationship between historic releases at the Oak Ridge nuclear facilities and health effects in the regional population. A screening process also identified radioactive cesium, mercury and PCBs as pollutants of concern, and the project's steering panel may yet include others, such as uranium.

However, there are indications that I-131 will become the priority as contractors for the Oak Ridge project reconstruct possible exposures to the public and look at the pollutants in more detail.

Even though mercury and cesium discharges have received much more public attention during the past decade of environmental scrutiny, some observers believe that releases of radioactive iodine were more likely to have caused harm to those living in the Oak Ridge area.

The short-lived radioactive material is linked to a number of thyroid conditions, including cancer and hypothyroidism, according to Dr. Scott Davis, a radiation epidemiologist



FRANK MUNGER

involved in a study of iodine releases at the Department of Energy's Hanford Operations in Washington state.

Davis recently briefed the Oak Ridge steering panel on the Hanford study begun in 1989. He also spoke at a public meeting in Kingston, where he outlined some of the difficulties of reconstructing radioactive doses to residents living in the region at the time of the discharges.

Some folks were startled to hear a representative of ChemRisk, the contractor conducting much of the research for the Oak Ridge project, say that iodine releases at ORNL were likely the same order of magnitude as those at Hanford. Indeed, that's a surprise because the iodine discharges at Oak Ridge have hardly received a mention, while the Hanford situation gained national attention — a scandal of sorts. The health study in Washington has a congressional mandate.

The Oak Ridge iodine releases occurred as workers were processing irradiated fuel from the Graphite Reactor. It was part of a program to provide radioactive lanthanum to Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico for weapons testing purposes. The Cold War program (known as "RaLa" for radioactive lanthanum) proceeded with an urgency attributed to the needs of national security.

Estimates on the I-131 discharges at ORNL are still highly uncertain, due partly to the lack of monitoring at the time and the difficulty of estimating emissions based on production records. Tom Widner of ChemRisk earlier placed the releases in the range of 500,000 curies. Others believe the radioactive discharges to the atmosphere could have been higher, perhaps even 1 million curies. Those

figures undoubtedly will be refined in the months and years ahead.

A big question facing the steering panel is how quickly to proceed with studies on the possible health effects of radioactive iodine.

One option clearly available to overseers of the Oak Ridge project is to wait until results are available from the Hanford study, perhaps lending some guidance on how — or whether — to proceed. That study, however, won't be completed until 1997, and it could be another year or so before preliminary data are available. There also are questions about how applicable the Hanford results will be to Oak Ridge.

Then, of course, there is the cost. The Oak Ridge project is already over budget and facing a shortfall in DOE funding. Will it be possible to get more funding from the federal source, instead of less?

Keep in mind that it's difficult to construct such studies. One problem is actually locating people who lived in the area at the time of the peak releases. For Oak Ridge, that would be 1946 to 1954.

Then, there are a host of other questions, such as my original one: Where were the cows? One of the principal exposure routes to humans is through the food chain. Cows eat grass contaminated with I-131 and pass along a concentrated product in milk, potentially harmful — especially to children. Learning the distribution of milk can be almost as important as the original dispersal of iodine.

Yet the key question to be answered is, How much does the public care? That ultimately will decide the fate of these studies.

Frank Munger covers the Department of Energy for The News-Sentinel. His address is 72302, 1234 on CompuServe, on Internet, 72302.1234@CompuServe.Com.

New Soviet history – revised

Post-cold-war scholarship looks at Lenin, the atomic bomb, and KGB espionage

and uncovered

By Leonard Bushkoff

BOOKS

P.13

HISTORIANS of the former Communist lands of the cold war face an exciting prospect: The archives of those countries are opening; the cry of "national security" no longer dominates Washington; and the subtle pressures to excuse one side or another are diminishing. And only an honest, realistic understanding of the past will help an informed citizenry develop in democratizing societies.

The very symbol of the Russian "new history" is Dimitri Volkogonov, the former general and professional historian who gained public renown and Gorbachev's support while battling the Stalinists in the 1980s. Following his harsh biography of Stalin, Volkogonov now presents *Lenin: A New Biography*, a well-documented response to the wishful thinking that all would have been well "if only" this "kinder, gentler" leader had survived, rather than dying in 1924.

This Volkogonov rejects: Lenin, with his brutality, duplicity, and lust for power, was no alternative to Stalin, but simply his predecessor. The two represented not change, but a continuity of horrors inflicted on the peoples of Russia.

In demystifying Lenin, Volkogonov is generous with details from the archives regarding his comfortable life in exile, German financing of the Bolsheviks during World War I, and the ruthlessness with which he attacked his enemies after 1917. What underlay Lenin's behavior, his insistence that ends justify means, is a vital question left unconsidered, but Volkogonov already has gone far in denying

the legitimacy of Bolshevism.

Another attack on Soviet mythology is Nina Tumarkin's *The Living and the Dead: The Rise and Fall of the Cult of World War II in Russia*, poignant, beautifully written account of the complex Soviet attitude toward World War II.

Tumarkin comes from a Russian émigré family; her vision of Soviet history is subtle, nuanced, rich with personal insights and autobiographical details. She is deeply saddened by the grim effect on the Russian psyche of the dictatorship's manipulation of mass emotions. Only since Gorbachev has truth begun to emerge in the art and literature that Tumarkin analyzes so perceptively.

In *The Dream That Failed: Reflections on the Soviet Union*, the learned Walter Laqueur also is concerned with a kind of myth, the theories that Western scholars and writers have developed for decades to explain the Soviet system. Yet its collapse caught them by surprise: Why? Laqueur looks to the self-deception of experts.

For an example of ideologically free narrative, consider David Holloway's *Stalin and the Bomb: The Soviet Union and Atomic Energy 1939-1956*. This is a rich, imposing account, thick with a specialist's detail on how, when, and why Stalin achieved the atomic bomb.

Two issues are central. First, Stalin treated World War II as a preamble to an inevitable conflict with the capitalists; only the bomb could ensure Soviet survival. Revisionist historians are naive in arguing that the cold war was avoidable "if only" Truman had gained

Stalin's confidence by giving this ally the secret. Not so, Holloway tacitly argues. Stalin's state was too paranoid ever to trust the West.

The other issue is: Did Soviet spies steal the secret or did the Soviets succeed on their own? The theft scenario delights those who define the Western scientific community as "soft" on communism, and Soviet science and technology as backward, primitive.

Holloway disagrees. Basically, Soviet scientists won the secret on their own, though Klaus Fuchs's espionage probably gained them a year; such spies as Julius and Ethel Rosenberg contributed little.

From prose to poetry – so we move from Holloway to Ryszard Kapuscinski's *Imperium*, a deft, episodic account of a fragmenting Soviet Union. This famous Polish journalist wandered through Siberia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, observing, chronicling, and speculating about life. As a Pole, he had felt the Soviet boot. Is he not a trifle satisfied to watch the empire collapse?

After the beautifully crafted books by Holloway and Kapuscinski, there is a letdown in *The First Directorate: My 32 Years in Intelligence and Espionage Against the West*, the bureaucratic memoirs of Oleg Kalugin, a retired KGB major-general whose authoritative visage has graced American television. His book – written with Fen Montaigne – is filled with lively tidbits about operating in the United States, recruiting agents, roaming the world on this or that mission – and enjoying the perks.

The ideological disillusionment that Kalugin insists began in the 1980s is unconvincing in this ambi-

CONTINUED

Study of A-bomb survivors imperiled

'Hibakusha' hold clues on radiation

By Donald Smith
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

A20

NAGASAKI, Japan — Some of the children whisper and fidget as the old man begins his story.

"I was one of the lucky ones," Masakatsu Obata says in a raspy voice to the 70 fifth-graders in red caps and blue skirts and knee pants.

"I was inside a building at the factory where I worked. I thought I was going to die, but I didn't."

The youngsters are gathered in the shade of an outdoor pavilion.

Nearly 50 years ago this was ground zero — the spot where the world's less-remembered atomic warhead exploded overhead, killing or injuring about 75,000 people.

Mr. Obata, now 80, was less than a mile away on that chilly August morning in 1945 — three days after Hiroshima — when an even more powerful American bomb scorched Nagasaki.

The city's hilly terrain protected it from devastation like Hiroshima's.

A brilliant blue-white light flashed across the assembly floor of the Mitsubishi munitions plant.

Mr. Obata had been about to go outside to eat the lunch his wife had packed.

He was burned and badly shaken but shielded from serious injury.

His wife wasn't so lucky. She and their two children were caught on a hillside near their house. A chunk of debris, possibly a roof tile, blew through her chest like a cannonball. All died — instantly, Mr. Obata hopes.

The cries for help of those who lived longer still haunt the "hibakusha," survivors of the two atomic bombings — today numbering about 360,000 — that brought World War II to an end.

Some 62,400 of these survivors, part of a group that numbered 120,000 in 1950, have been included in a long-term study that is now in danger of being curtailed or halted because of funding problems.

Supported by both the U.S. and Japanese governments, it has analyzed radiation's aftermath over decades.

At present, most of the hibakusha are living relatively normal lives — statistically longer than Americans — according to Dr. Mortimer L. Mendelsohn, vice chairman of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, based in Hiroshima.

An estimated 190,000 to 210,000 people had died as a result of the two nuclear attacks by the end of 1945. Eighty-five percent were 30 or younger.

Those who survived the initial effects of heat and blast seemed to regain health at first.

But other symptoms soon set in — mostly associated with exposure to the gamma rays and neutrons emitted within a minute of the explosion, and to a small extent from residual radiation that lasted for nearly a week afterward.

Over the years, many hibakusha have been plagued with severe illness.

"Leukemia began increasing a few years after the bombing," Dr. Mendelsohn said. "It peaked six or eight years afterward, then trickled off."

At first there was no change in the cancer rate. But beginning about 1950, more people began developing malignant tumors of all types.

Thus far, children of the hibakusha seem largely unaffected.

But women who were pregnant when the bombs fell have given birth to children who grew less, had abnormally small heads and, in severe cases, were mentally retarded.

Although the research foundation conducts extensive biennial health exams of those enrolled in its program, it gives no medical treatment.

In 1957, the Japanese government, which had renounced all claims against the United States as part of the treaty ending the war, set up a medical care program that included treatment for atomic-bomb-related injuries and sickness.

A later government program provides special financial allowances to victims.

The municipalities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, along with several private groups, have established hospitals, nursing homes and recreational facilities.

The hibakusha themselves have formed groups that were brought together in 1956 by the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Hidankyo).

In recent years Hidankyo has been calling for a national compensation law for the hibakusha, on the grounds that Japan started the war.

The United States and many other governments use the research foundation's four-year updates as a basis for setting radiation exposure standards for workers, for the environment and for patients receiving radiological treatments or tests, such as chest

CONTINUED

X-rays, mammograms, and radioactive iodine used to measure thyroid function.

"This is the only sizable population in the world where we have known individual exposure doses and can follow people throughout their lives and see what the effects are," Dr. Mendelsohn says.

"It's important to keep going."

"The information is especially important for assessing radiotherapy treatments for childhood cancer, since children may be more vulnerable to radiation," says John D. Zimbrick of the National Academy of Sciences, which manages the American half of the research.

"We won't know the answer for another 10 years."

Such standards are also applied to medical technicians who administer these procedures and military personnel working around nuclear weapons or aboard nuclear-powered submarines.

They also help predict risk levels for victims of accidents such as the 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

When joint operation of the foundation began in 1975, the United States and Japan agreed to split the costs evenly.

But the most recent devaluations of the dollar and across-the-board cuts in government spending have resulted, according to one projection, in a 25 percent cut in U.S. funding from the fiscal 1994 level of \$18 million.

Japan has threatened to cut its contribution by an amount equal to any U.S. cut.

But in a series of negotiations, the United States is pressing the Japanese to pick up more of the expenses.

"We hope they can work out something that will prevent a train wreck," Mr. Zimbrick says.

In the meantime, the surviving hibakusha grow ever older.

Like many, Masakatsu Obata feels he has a duty to pass along to new generations his experiences on that fateful day and the days that followed, as the most effective argument for peace in the world.

He speaks to some 100 groups of schoolchildren every year.

"As long as people like me are still alive to tell our story," he tells a foreign visitor, with as much hope as conviction, "maybe no one will drop another atomic bomb."

Jessica Mathews

Expensive Secrets C7

The latest attempt to reform the government's bloated and sclerotic secrecy apparatus has ground to a halt. Except at the Department of Energy, efforts to declassify ancient history and to set sensible standards for the protection of current information have bogged down in a lethal quicksand of bureaucratic turf wars and inertia and a still-thriving Cold War mind-set.

Newly classified documents are accumulating substantially faster than the glacial pace of declassification. The government is now holding onto 325 million pages created 30 years or more ago. Most of these, wrote the government's archivist recently "are so irrelevant to current security" that their continued secrecy "seems inappropriate, if not laughable." It took a mere 22 years after President Nixon announced an "immediate" declassification of World War II files for these to finally be released this past week.

Masses and masses of antique satellite imagery are also kept secret. Though irrelevant to security, much of this material would be of immense value to scientists studying global environmental trends. It is of much lower resolution than images that will soon be for sale commercially from French, Russian and American sources.

Meanwhile, new imagery is piling up rapidly. John Pike, of the Federation of American Scientists, estimates that today's imaging intelligence satellites are producing roughly 10 times more per day than during most of the Cold War, though priority targets may be tenfold fewer.

As if this weren't enough, the system blunders about worrying over old material that might somehow have escaped classification. In a hair-raising piece in the journal *Science* last spring, Glenn Seaborg, Nobel prize winner and former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, described his run-in with the system. Twelve years after he left the AEC, the government decided that his personal journal, which had been cleared by AEC censors, needed a classification review. Two teams at opposite ends of the country spent months reviewing identical copies of the 26-volume document and—*are you surprised?*—came up with totally different results.

Some deletions, such as a reference to Halloween trick-or-treating with his children, were "utterly ludicrous." Another "particular specialty" of the reviewers was to delete information the government had itself published. It was, Seaborg writes, "an arbitrary, capricious, and frivolous process, almost devoid of objective criteria." This from a man who spent much of a distinguished career inside—and in charge of—one of the most secrecy-obsessed agencies in government.

No one knows what this system costs. The GAO estimates that a quarter of a million people are cleared just for the most sensitive "black" (unacknowledged) projects whose classifications begin above Top Secret. Also according to GAO, the Pentagon alone spends about \$6 billion annually safeguarding secret material. Another estimate puts the costs to the defense industry at nearly \$14 billion—a horrific \$75 per document.

Without knowing the total costs, it is impossible even to guess at how much this system wastes and what a sensible reform might save, but the annual figure is certainly in the billions.

The direct costs are just the beginning. Overly indulgent secrecy protects the stupid, the incompetent and the evil, as well as the merely wasteful. The absence of scrutiny by colleagues or independent experts lets bad decisions pass unchallenged and negligent management persist for decades. With some accountability, the several hundred billion dollar nuclear and chemical cleanup bill rung up by the nuclear and defense establishments, for example, would never have grown so large.

Secrecy breeds arrogance and in the worst case, contempt for the public. In the mid-'50s, the AEC, which knew different, promised those living downwind of its aboveground nuclear test site that the fallout "does not constitute a serious hazard to any living thing."

Duplicative security clearances (agencies don't honor other agencies' clearances) are not only costly but take so long that they can cost an incoming administration much of its political honeymoon while key appointees twiddle their thumbs for months.

The widening gap between classified material and actual security also corrodes respect for the system inside government, jeopardizing secrets that do need to be protected. Steven Aftergood, whose *Secrecy and Government Bulletin* documents the growing flow of leaks, worries that the system "will disintegrate before it's fixed."

To its credit, the administration set out to issue a new executive order to streamline the system, release old material and set a reasonable deadline for automatic declassification of new secrets. After a year and a half of interagency wrangling and many missed deadlines, participants report growing frustration and declining hope that a final decision will be made anytime soon. Entangled with the broad reform, and therefore also stuck, are important reforms of the security burden on industry and release of potentially invaluable environmental data.

Beset as everyone in the White House is with problems, someone at a high level needs to take the time to jar these decisions loose. It will be only a small public victory—though one that builds rather than bleeds public trust—but over the years it will mean a more efficient government and a better democracy.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Fallout from Chernobyl

A unique opportunity
to study radiation's
genetic effects
lured Alexei Gostyev
into a fatal quest

By James P. Gallagher
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

2/1

ORANOYE, Ukraine—Alexei Gostyev was not a fanatic. That's what his grieving widow stresses. That's what his heartsick friends insist.

It was not, they say, a martyr complex or delusions of grandeur that, week after week, year after year, sent the courageous biologist tromping through the deadly "red forest," that superirradiated hell on Earth where the demons let loose by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster lurk.

True, he insisted on his deathbed, after his body had been befouled by the evil alchemy of leukemia, that he would recover, indeed had to recover, because there was still so much important work to be done, and only he could do it.

But those who loved Gostyev dismiss this as the death rattle of a heroic spirit.

As a man of science, they're convinced, he surely had to know that he was doomed, and not just when his bone marrow and his glands betrayed him, but much earlier, when he committed himself to the most daring research project ever on the genetic havoc wreaked by radiation, using the lethal red forest as his Frankenstein's laboratory.

"Alexei never thought of himself as a hero," his wife, Yelena, explained while visiting his sandy grave on the 40th day after his passing and, in accordance with

old Russian tradition, lighting a memorial candle.

"He was just living out his fate. When he saw the first television reports about the Chernobyl disaster, he told me we had to go there and set up a laboratory. There was a rare opportunity to do vital research, and because of his unique background, he was the one best suited to do it."

For more than seven years, the Gostyevs and their young son lived in a cramped, drafty, rustic cabin just outside the eerie Chernobyl ghost zone, which has been bereft of human habitation since that awful spring of 1986 when the No. 4 reactor at the Chernobyl power station exploded and showered the surrounding countryside with radioactive debris.

Almost every week, Gostyev hiked throughout the zone, including the most perilous locales—"the hottest of the hot spots," he liked to say—collecting plant and animal specimens that he hoped would help resolve one of the trickiest conundrums of the atomic era: just how dangerous low levels of radiation actually are to human beings.

His conclusion: Even minimal exposure to radiation has a much more alarming effect on human, animal and plant chromosomes than was previously suspected.

He felt he had made a breakthrough, with frightening implications for public health. But as he lay dying, he complained in anguish that no one else in the scientific community was taking his findings very seriously.

"We tried to warn people, but no one listened," Yelena Gostyev, also a geneticist, said. "I'm still trying to warn people."

After all the deprivation and the difficult work, after the mounds of research data and analyses he compiled, after the terrible pain he suffered when his body finally gave out, the saddest part of Alexei Gostyev's story may not simply be that he died, but that he sacrificed his life for nothing.

The big problem is the Gostyevs' research methods.

"They employed a completely unconven-

tional approach," explained Lahrs Ehrenberg, a highly respected Swedish scientist who followed their work closely over the years and even kept it going at one point by paying their delinquent electric bill and sending money for badly needed supplies.

"This could make it impossible to verify their findings in another lab, and without that, the scientific community won't know whether to trust their conclusions or not. Alexei was a very brave man. Yelena was a clever technician. But I'm afraid I don't know if they were doing good science. It's really just so sad."

A.T. Natarajan, an Indian geneticist who specializes in radiation damage, shares Ehrenberg's dismay and frustration.

"Alexei was completely devoted to his work, so devoted that it killed him," said Natarajan, a professor at Leiden University in the Netherlands who collected blood samples from Gostyev over the years and was one of the first to realize he had developed leukemia.

"We tried to help him organize his research better. When we met in Stockholm a year before his death, I offered suggestions on how he could proceed more efficiently. But he was already ill, and he never followed through. Now that he's dead, we have to find some way to salvage all the effort he put into this project."

Gostyev was 57 when he died last summer. Friends remember him as an easy-going fellow who loved to cook, build furniture and make toys. He doted on his son Fyodor, now 10.

CONTINUED

A once-in-a-lifetime chance

To understand how this likable, down-to-earth man came to live out the final chapter of his long scientific career in the woods around Chernobyl—and why his research methods were so unorthodox—you have to go back to the early 1980s, when he was second in command at the famous Nikitski Botanical Gardens in Yalta.

"He was a very clever cytologist," recalled Sven Asker, at whose research institute in Lund, Sweden, Gostyev was a visiting fellow. "He developed new techniques for studying chromosomes, including a machine that stored and cataloged pictures of them."

Valentin Trukhanov, deputy director of a genetics institute in Kiev, said Gostyev eventually achieved an encyclopedic knowledge of plant and animal chromosomes and, using his unique technology, was able to detect even minuscule changes in their outward appearance.

By late April 1986, when reckless workers at the Chernobyl plant stumbled through a series of mind-boggling blunders that set off the world's worst peacetime nuclear disaster, Gostyev was convinced that alteration in the size or shape of chromosomes was a sure indicator of genetic damage.

"He saw Chernobyl as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to resolve a lot of unanswered questions about the genetic impact of radiation," Trukhanov said. "He told me that the most important thing was to study how Chernobyl radiation affected chromosomes."

"He believed that carrying out this task was his destiny. I heard him say that he and his wife were the only people in the whole world prepared to do it. He knew that there would be great risks, but he also knew the job would never get done if he and Yelena didn't accept the challenge."

Effects of low-level radiation

In particular, Gostyev hoped to discover whether exposure to very low levels of radiation—quite common in the U.S. and other developed countries today—presents a serious threat to human health. Scientists have debated this question for decades.

Much of what is known with certainty about the health hazards posed by radiation stems from

studies done after World War II on Japanese survivors of the atomic bomb, who had been exposed to large doses. After calculating the health effects of such high-level exposure, scientists used this information as a benchmark to estimate the impact of smaller doses.

But some experts cautioned that while this proportional approach appears logical, it might not be valid. They suggested there could be a cutoff level, a minimal-danger dosage, below which radiation lost its threat.

That possibility could never be flatly ruled out because technological limitations made it impossible to get a precise gauge on the health effects of minute doses.

With time, public concern about exposure to very low levels of radiation steadily abated, despite the occasional study warning that the danger could be greater than assumed.

After the Chernobyl reactor blew, Gostyev was certain his new equipment would finally resolve the issue. He would gather thousands of specimens from the forbidding red forest, so-called because of the horrifying concentration of radiation, then painstakingly chart how different levels of exposure altered the appearance of chromosomes.

A prestigious institute in Moscow agreed to fund the project. But after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and Ukraine became an independent country, contributions from the institute dwindled and then stopped.

Everyday life became increasingly burdensome for the Gostyevs. Defiantly, they kept working in their little live-in laboratory just 21 miles from the shattered, sealed-over reactor.

Discovery of mutations

"He was able to observe the impact of increasingly low levels of radiation, down to 1/1-millionth of a roentgen," Ukrainian scientist Yuri Zagorodnyuk said. "That was a remarkable accomplishment."

In his treks through the irradiated zone, Gostyev sometimes observed plant and animal mutations that seemed straight out of a science-fiction movie: fish with three eyes, frogs with six legs,

flowers with strange petal formations.

"It was as if the clock had been turned back thousands of years," Zagorodnyuk explained. "Species were displaying characteristics that they had possessed thousands of years ago but had lost through evolution. Now those characteristics were returning in a climate of intense radiation."

As unnerving as these developments were, the Gostyevs were even more disturbed by what they learned about low-level radiation.

"Even very minimal levels of radiation altered the size and shape of chromosomes," Yelena Gostyev stressed. "We concluded that tiny levels of radiation are much more destructive than anyone thought. And this damage will be passed on to future generations."

The couple expanded their research to examine the impact of everyday chemical products, such as shampoo, hairspray and cosmetics.

"The results were frightening," Yelena Gostyev said. "When we looked at the damage done by radiation and chemicals, we could see no difference. This definitely needs to be studied further. We're too poor to do it in Ukraine. Scientists in the West must become involved."

But even her good friend Ehrenberg is skeptical that this will happen.

"Everywhere else, scientists use a molecular approach to study the impact of radiation," Ehrenberg said. "Modern scientists look at bio-chemical changes, especially in DNA, as well as the status of enzymes."

"The Gostyevs' approach is pure cytology. There is no doubt that they have come up with something that could be very significant. They have seen changes in the length and width of chromosomes. But because nobody else does this sort of research, nobody knows what the changes mean."

According to Ehrenberg, the only way to determine what, if anything, these morphological changes in chromosomes signal is to devise a complicated, expensive procedure for repeating the Gostyevs' work in a more conventional laboratory.

It would also be necessary to determine whether external alterations in chromosomes are linked to bio-chemical reactions associated with genetic damage.

"Is the biological community interested in pursuing this?" Ehrenberg asked. "Nobody has the equipment you would need, and the cost would be prohibitive."

The possibility that all her husband's hard work will come to naught makes Yelena Gostyev angry. "He did all this for mankind, not for himself," she said. "He gave up his life because he believed in what we were doing. I believe in what we did. And I believe it will be a tragic mistake if other scientists don't pick up where we left off."

Circ: 1,145,890

Enola Gay Moves as Debate Goes On

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 — After a 10-year, \$1 million renovation, the front part of the fuselage of the Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, was moved early Wednesday morning from a warehouse in suburban Maryland to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Moving the 60-foot-long section of the plane was the quietest step thus far in the preparation of an exhibition, "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II," a look at the decision to drop two atom bombs on Japan in August 1945.

Ever since the museum released a draft of the text that is to accompany the exhibit when it opens in May, the museum has been caught in a cross-fire between veterans and historians over a turning point in world history.

The veterans groups, notably the American Legion, fired first. They found the display too sympathetic to the Japanese. The most divisive issue was discussion of the number of casualties that an invasion of Japan would have wrought, long argued as the decisive element in American wartime strategy. The museum's draft cited a military estimate that American casualties in the first 30 days of an invasion of Japan would have amounted to 30,000 to 50,000.

The veterans groups cited figures closer to one million casualties. Many members of the groups saw for themselves the growing numbers of dead and wounded in 1945 in the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

They were also upset that the museum planned to include in the text a section on the postwar nuclear race but only one paragraph about Pearl Harbor.

Then, after the Air and Space Museum revised the text to say that casualties could have numbered up to one million, the historians plunged into the dispute.

A group of scholars sent a letter to the secretary of the Smithsonian, I. Michael Heyman, calling the changes "intellectual corruption" and a "historical cleansing." While the museum had taken the utmost care to restore the Enola Gay, they

said, the restoration "stands in extraordinary contrast to the disregard of historical documents and the scholarly literature on the atomic bombings."

The historians said the effects of the war on Japan before the bombings, the entry of the Soviet Union into the war and diplomatic efforts could have ended the war in the Pacific without the use of atomic weapons.

"In the present version, there is no clear statement that there is controversy surrounding the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that leaves Americans impoverished intellectually," said Barton Bernstein, a professor of history at Stanford University and a member of a group that met with Air and Space Museum officials to discuss their objections.

Mike Fetters, an Air and Space Museum spokesman who was at the meeting of historians and museum officials earlier this month, said that much of the criticism was too exacting. "Things that are easy for historians are not so easy for us," Mr. Fetters said. "We recognize that it's highly unlikely that we'll satisfy everyone completely, and we're comfortable where we are now."

Mr. Fetters said the script would not be significantly changed before the exhibit's opening.

The historians involved say the revisions made after the complaints of veterans groups raised an issue about how decisions on the display were made.

Professor Bernstein said that in the meeting he "challenged the intel-

lectual authority of veterans groups, when their reasoning for changing the exhibit came from being veterans, from being there." He added: "They have no particular access to the decisions that were made in Washington. It seems the highest form of naiveté."

Martin Sherwin, a professor of history at Dartmouth College and a member, with Professor Bernstein, of an academic advisory panel that worked on the exhibit with the museum last year, said the revised text "has nothing to do with the history, as it is known by serious historians."

Professor Sherwin said: "The job of the Air and Space Museum is to protect history, not to cave into political pressure. The whole presentation of history in the United States is in jeopardy over this. It's a precedent for political intervention into historical correctness."

Radiation victims denied expanded study

White House wants panel to stay on present course

By Karen MacPherson
ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON - The White House apparently will refuse requests by victims' groups to expand a panel investigating government-sponsored human radiation experiments, sources say.

Although there is no official word, sources say Clinton administration officials have rejected arguments by victims' groups that their point of view isn't being heard by the 14-member Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The Task Force on Radiation and Human Rights, an umbrella group of 23 radiation victims' groups, has publicly contended that several members of the advisory committee have pro-radiation biases.

Such biases raise serious questions about the panel's ability to fairly investigate the experiments, task force members say.

Task force members have suggested seven people who could be added to the advisory committee, including three victims, three radiation experts, and Stewart Udall, a former Interior secretary who has pushed for government compensation of uranium miners and other radiation victims.

"What it comes back to is the importance of having a balanced scientific group within the advisory committee," said E. Cooper Brown, who heads the task force.

"Without any balance over on the other side, the experiment victims and

their families are legitimately going to have concerns. ... Our message is, 'Look, we are not seeking to have any of these people taken off of the committee. What we want is balance.'"

Brown said the task force has received no answer to a letter it sent to the White House three weeks ago outlining the problem and asking for a meeting with key officials on the issue.

White House officials believe the advisory committee shouldn't be expanded because if one or two people representing certain groups are added to the panel, other groups may clamor for the same treatment, sources said.

In addition, White House officials don't want to tamper with the idea that the advisory committee is a "panel of experts," the sources said. If experiment victims are added, the panel could no longer claim such a distinction, the sources added.

The advisory committee was formed by President Clinton last year after revelations about human radiation experiments by government scientists in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

The committee, headed by Ruth Faden, a world-renowned ethicist at Johns Hopkins University, has several tasks: ensuring federal agencies find all records related to human radiation experiments, sifting through those records to determine who did what to whom, and recommending whether anyone should be compensated by the federal government.

Dan Guttman, the advisory committee's executive director, said the panel has been careful to do all its work in the open, and that members "welcome comments and criticism from all quarters."

"We're working closely with the victims and other groups and obviously will continue to do so," Guttman said.

Livermore lab sheds light on its link to CIA

OAK TRIB A-13 11/15
By Jonathan Weisman
STAFF WRITER

LIVERMORE — The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory last week shed some light on its mysterious relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency, saying a joint project code-named "Iron Bush" dealt only with issues of nuclear proliferation, not human radiation experiments.

The White House's Radiation Advisory Panel has begun investigating a secret memorandum of understanding struck in 1965 between the lab and the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence.

That CIA division was involved in human subject experiments at the time, and the White House panel has requested documents "specifically related to the work performed under this agreement that might relate to human radiation experiments," according to the panel's recent interim report.

The panel also is looking into project Iron Bush.

Atomic Energy Commission

A classified Atomic Energy Commission document obtained by the White House refers to both the CIA's agreement with the lab and a project Iron Bush conducted under that agreement. The AEC preceded the Department of Energy as the lab's owner and main funding agent.

While the lab and CIA have yet to publicly release the classified documents, lab officials — with the approval of the CIA — did release a statement on Iron Bush.

"Iron Bush is the collective name given to a set of projects at LLNL sponsored by the CIA to provide technical reports on topics of interest to the CIA in pursuit of its foreign intelligence mission," wrote Robert Andrews, associate director for nonproliferation, arms control and international security. "Liv-

ermore uses its special technical expertise to develop analytical techniques and analyze intelligence information."

"An extensive search of LLNL records, including the Iron Bush records, determined there was no indication of any human radiation experimentation whatsoever," Andrews' statement concluded.

Lab spokesman David Schwogler said the lab has not yet received permission from the CIA to release a copy of the 1965 memorandum of understanding. But he noted that the lab's Z Division, an intelligence group, also was established in 1965 to help the CIA track Soviet and Chinese nuclear-weapons efforts.

Nuclear proliferation monitoring

Z Division has gone on to monitor efforts by Iraq, North Korea and other nations to obtain nuclear weapons. The division's analysts also are investigating alleged smuggling of nuclear materials by organized criminals in the former Soviet Union.

Under strict rules of secrecy, lab officials could not say whether Z Division's establishment had anything to do with the mysterious CIA memo. But one official invited people "to draw their own conclusions."

The White House panel was set up six months ago to coordinate investigations by several branches of government into Cold War experiments that used human subjects. Massive document searches are under way in the Defense Department, the Energy Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs, NASA and CIA.

A final report is expected in April.

①

Appeared in Deseret News of Salt Lake City, page A1, Saturday, Dec. 3 --

WASHINGTON _ Just-released documents reveal that six more Army weapons trials likely scattered radioactive dust to the Utah winds in the 1950s. They were so big they released 11 times more radiation than all the other 68 known similar tests combined.

The newly uncovered Dugway Proving Ground tests released more than 141,000 curies of radioactive tantalum-182, compared to between 12,400 and 13,000 curies released by the 68 others.

The combined amount from all tests _ more than 162,000 curies between 1949 and 1953 _ is 10,000 times more than the 15 curies of radioactive iodine released by the infamous near-meltdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania.

The information comes from Energy and Defense department documents requested and obtained by Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, which he released Friday.

A year ago, all of the now 74 known or suspected weapons trials were secret. But congressional and Deseret News probes have revealed them piecemeal since.

The tests were designed to develop non-nuclear bombs and other weapons that could scatter radioactive dust over an enemy. President Clinton has already ordered the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, which he formed last year, to review the danger and ethics of such tests at Dugway.

The new documents also contain some good news. They outline Army studies in 1987 and 1989 that concluded that no lingering radiation threat still persists today from the tests at Dugway _ even though they were potentially very dangerous at the time.

"My first concern _ and the reason I pushed for the documents _ is to make sure no danger exists now," Bennett said.

While Army studies concluded that it does not, Bennett said his staff is working with scientists at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland to provide one more review of data.

If it also concludes no current danger exists, Bennett said he then wants to find "whether anyone was damaged by the tests, and how to make sure we're not that sloppy in the future."

He said he will keep pressuring for more information until those questions are answered. Bennett is on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which has for years been investigating government radiation experiments.

The two biggest tests mentioned in the new documents were apparently planned for or near May 28, 1953. Documents do not confirm whether they actually occurred, but an Army study in 1989 about potential lingering radiation assumed that they did.

Little information about them is given in that 1989 report except that one test planned to deposit 100,000 curies of radioactive tantalum over 4 square miles at the Dugway base. The other planned to deposit 10,000 curies over 1 square mile.

The 1989 report said it found mention of plans for those two tests in another report about a related field experiment in March, 1963 at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. It was designed to see if the Dugway tests would create a problem with airborne

(2)

radiation.

"The report concluded that there was little likelihood of airborne radioactivity hazard from the proposed operations," the 1989 report said.

The four other newly revealed weapons were much smaller, and occurred on Nov. 7-8, 1962. In them, different shapes of munitions were exploded to see which would spread radiation the farthest. They released a total of between 1,100 and 1,012 curies.

The Army studies about possible lingering threats from the old tests noted that the tantalum 182 used has a half life of only 116 days -- meaning it loses half its radioactivity by decay in about three months. And the tests occurred 40 years ago.

"With this in mind, the level of radioactivity today resulting from these tests is, of course, completely negligible, and is undetectable with the most sensitive radiation counting instruments," Assistant Defense Secretary Harold P. Smith Jr. wrote Bennett.

In the 1989 radiation hazard study, Army officers walked and drove throughout the test areas with sensitive radiation-measuring devices -- and found nothing except normal background radiation, except in one area where beryllium waste had been buried in a trench.

While test areas may not be dangerous today, documents show the Army believed it was dangerous back in the 1950s. Several tests were conducted to develop contamination methods by taking advantage of radiation in the test areas.

Also, tests evaluating how well different construction techniques protected against radiation were also conducted in the test areas.

Some documents about such tests -- released previously -- show photos of workers without shirts in the hot desert having co-workers hold Geiger counters near them to see how well different materials were shielding radiation.

(3)

A sidebar that also ran on Saturday, Dec. 2, in the Deseret News of Salt Lake City --

WASHINGTON — Following is an updated list of radiological weapons tests that occurred in Utah at Dugway Proving Ground, all of which were secret until congressional and Deseret News probes began revealing them last year.

New documents released Friday by Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, that revealed three more heretofore unknown tests were planned — which may have released 11 times more radiation than all other known tests combined. One occurred on Nov. 7-8, 1951, and the other two were planned for May 23, 1953.

The documents also included some new totals for radiation released in other tests, which are included in the list:

Oct. 22, 1949 — A 2,000-pound cluster bomb full of radioactive tantalum-182 contaminated 0.6 square miles at Dugway Proving Ground. It had a total of 280 curies of radiation.

Nov. 30, 1949 — Another 2,000-pound cluster bomb contaminated 0.8 square miles. It had a total of 1,608 curies of tantalum-182.

Aug. 4, 1950 — A cluster bomb with tantalum was exploded 1,450 feet above the ground, releasing 480 curies of radiation and contaminating 1.7 square miles on the test grid. Sixty-nine percent of radiation released was not accounted for by grid monitors, and may have spread downwind.

Aug. 8, 1950 — A cluster bomb with tantalum was dropped, but on the wrong target by error of a bombardier. It was supposed to explode in the air, but did on the ground. It contaminated 0.09 square miles on the test grid — but some contamination might have spread "indefinitely" in some directions. It used 480 curies of radioactive material.

Aug. 11, 1950 — Four tests exploded different shapes of radioactive munitions on 50-foot poles to see which would best spread contamination. They each had 20 curies of radiation.

Sept. 5, 1950 — A cluster bomb filled with tantalum exploded at a height of 1,000 feet, releasing 920 curies and contaminating 2 square miles of the test grid. Sixty-two percent of expected radiation was not accounted for by monitors on grid.

Sept. 7, 1950 — A cluster bomb filled with tantalum was exploded at a height of 2,000 feet, releasing 3,900 curies and contaminating 3.2 square miles on the grid. Seventy-five percent of expected radiation was not accounted for by grid monitors.

Sept. 13, 1950 — Fifteen tests occurred of small "dust generators" — something like radioactive dust grenades. Some used radioactive tantalum, and some used radioactive "Agent RA." Each was filled with 11 curies of radiation. Most dust fell within 120 yards of munition, "and very little agent left the area in cloud form."

November 1950 — Plans called for a "heat transfer" study to explode 80,000 curies of tantalum in a cluster bomb to study "the problem involved in the dissipation of the heat generated in an RW (radiation weapon) munition." Documents do not say whether it actually occurred.

Sometime in 1951 — Documents called for a test of a system to upend radioactive pellets from hoppers in high-altitude

14
aircraft, but documents do not show if it actually happened.

May 28, 1951 — Four tests exploded different shapes of radioactive munitions on 50-foot poles to see which would best spread contamination. How much radiation was released in each experiment is unknown.

Nov. 2-4, 1951 — Nine tests were conducted with spherical radioactive dust generators dropped from airplanes, exploding as high as 5,780 feet above ground in winds of up to 38 miles an hour. Each sphere released between 7.4 and 17.8 curies, according to different documents.

Nov. 7-8, 1951 — Two cluster bombs were tested. One on Nov. 7 was exploded at 1,700 feet above ground, releasing 812 curies and contaminating 1.05 square miles on the grid. Twenty-six percent of expected radiation was accounted for by grid monitors. One on Nov. 8 exploded at 1,050 feet above ground, releasing 758 curies and contaminating 1.22 square miles on the grid.

Nov. 7-8, 1951 — Documents released this week say four tests exploded different shapes of radioactive munitions to see which would spread radiation the furthest. The four munitions used had between 275 and 400 curies of radiation.

May 20, 1952 — Four tests exploded different shapes of radioactive munitions on 50 foot poles. They each released between 327 and 421 curies, according to different documents, and contaminated up to 0.33 square miles on the grid.

May 21-27, 1952 — Sixteen tests were conducted of "dust generator" spheres dropped from airplanes. Nine may have been duds and three were never located. New documents say the tests released a total of 30.0 to 40 curies of radiation.

Sept. 23, 1952 — Five munitions in different shapes were tested on 50 foot poles. New documents say that the four munitions that functioned deposit radiation in the amounts of 626.9, 571.3, 359.4 and 607 curies in four areas.

November, 1952 — A radiological weapons test of unknown type occurred, according to some documents.

May 23, 1953 — Now documents say two large tests were planned for this date, or near it. One was to deposit 100,000 curies of radioactive tantalum over 4 square miles. The second test was to spread 10,000 curies over 1 square mile area.

Documents do not show whether the test actually occurred, or give any further details. However, the Army conducted tests a year earlier in Arizona to ensure the tests would not present an airborne radioactivity hazard. The Army also assumed the test occurred when it later figured what radiation threat may exist in the area.

on the wrong target by error of a bombardier. It was supposed to explode in the air, but did on the ground. It contaminated 0.80 square miles on the test grid - but some contamination might have spread "indefinitely" in some directions. It used 480 curies of radioactive material.

Aug. 11, 1950 - Four tests exploded different shapes of radioactive munitions on 50-foot poles to see which would best spread contamination. They each had 26 curies of radiation.

Sept. 5, 1950 - A cluster bomb filled with tantalum exploded at a height of 1,000 feet, releasing 930 curies and contaminating 2 square miles of the test grid. Sixty-two percent of expected radiation was not accounted for by monitors on grid.

Sept. 7, 1950 - A cluster bomb filled with tantalum was exploded at a height of 2,000 feet, releasing 3,900 curies and contaminating 3.2 square miles on the grid. Seventy-five percent of expected radiation was not accounted for by grid monitors.

Sept. 13, 1950 - Fifteen tests occurred of small "dust generators" - something like radioactive-dust grenades. Some used radioactive tantalum, and some used radioactive "Agent RA." Each was filled with 1.1 curies of radiation. Most dust fell within 120 yards of munition, "and very little agent left the area in cloud form."

November 1950 - Plans called for a "heat transfer" study to explode 30,000 curies of tantalum in a cluster bomb to study "the problem involved in the dissipation of the heat generated in an RW (radiation weapon) munition." Documents do not say whether it actually occurred.

Sometime in 1951 - Documents called for a test of a system to spread radioactive pellets from hoppers in high altitude

Date: 11/22/94 Time: 08:58

Testimony: Radiation Test Participants Not Told of Consequences

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) Prisoners who volunteered for radiation experiments three decades ago were not told of the consequences, which for some included removal of their testicles, a state official told a presidential panel.

One of the inmates who participated also testified Monday that he does not remember being told about the side effects of the blistering radiation bombardment and the 1965 surgical biopsy on his testicles.

Harold Bibeau, 52, said he still feels pain from the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. Now a Portland, Ore., draftsman, Bibeau said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up medical treatment and compensation.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating and given \$100 when they left prison.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half of us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau said.

Catherine Knox, director of health services for the Oregon Department of Corrections, said about half of the participants are dead and others do not wish to be contacted. Some are still imprisoned.

She said the majority of 67 Oregon volunteers were told nothing about testicular biopsies that for some prisoners led to removal of their testicles. Sterilization was recommended because any children they fathered would probably suffer birth defects.

Four members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments also heard that some consent forms appeared to have been signed by Dr. Carl Heller, the researcher who conducted the Oregon prison studies. Heller died in 1982.

President Clinton appointed the committee in April to determine if radiation experiments were conducted with the subjects' informed consent and whether compensation is due. The full committee will make its recommendations next April, said Dr. Reed Tuckson, who chaired the hearing.

The panel also heard from people who felt they suffered health problems from Hanford nuclear reservation radiation releases. The Hanford reservation in south-central Washington manufactured plutonium for nuclear weapons for four decades.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early '70s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were exposed to varying X-ray doses so researchers could learn about the potential biological effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford workers and on NASA astronauts.

Al Conklin, a Washington State Department of Health radiation expert, testified that prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary were exposed to X-ray doses up to 400 times the strength of a modern X-ray.

APNP-11-22-94 0858EST

Date: 11/22/94 Time: 08:58

Testimony: Radiation Test Participants Not Told of Consequences

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) Prisoners who volunteered for radiation experiments three decades ago were not told of the consequences, which for some included removal of their testicles, a state official told a presidential panel.

One of the inmates who participated also testified Monday that he does not remember being told about the side effects of the blistering radiation bombardment and the 1965 surgical biopsy on his testicles.

Harold Bibeau, 52, said he still feels pain from the experiments, which were carried out on more than 130 inmates in Oregon and Washington. Now a Portland, Ore., draftsman, Bibeau said the U.S. Department of Energy has ignored his pleas for follow-up medical treatment and compensation.

Prisoners were paid \$5 to \$10 a month for participating and given \$100 when they left prison.

"I think what they're doing is that they are realizing that almost half of us are now dead and they're hoping that if they simply ignore us long enough, we'll all die and the problem will simply vanish," Bibeau said.

Catherine Knox, director of health services for the Oregon Department of Corrections, said about half of the participants are dead and others do not wish to be contacted. Some are still imprisoned.

She said the majority of 67 Oregon volunteers were told nothing about testicular biopsies that for some prisoners led to removal of their testicles. Sterilization was recommended because any children they fathered would probably suffer birth defects.

Four members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments also heard that some consent forms appeared to have been signed by Dr. Carl Heller, the researcher who conducted the Oregon prison studies. Heller died in 1982.

President Clinton appointed the committee in April to determine if radiation experiments were conducted with the subjects' informed consent and whether compensation is due. The full committee will make its recommendations next April, said Dr. Reed Tuckson, who chaired the hearing.

The panel also heard from people who felt they suffered health problems from Hanford nuclear reservation radiation releases. The Hanford reservation in south-central Washington manufactured plutonium for nuclear weapons for four decades.

The inmate experiments, conducted in the 1960s and early '70s, were sponsored and funded by the Energy Department's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Prisoners' testicles were exposed to varying X-ray doses so researchers could learn about the potential biological effects of ionizing radiation on Hanford workers and on NASA astronauts.

Al Conklin, a Washington State Department of Health radiation expert, testified that prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary were exposed to X-ray doses up to 400 times the strength of a modern X-ray.

APNP-11-22-94 0858EST

Neighbors: 911 calls unheeded in beating

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

Sixteen times, frantic Philadelphia residents called 911 to report the scene unfolding outside St. Cecilia's Catholic Church — a baseball-bat-wielding mob of teen-agers attacking a former altar boy and some of his friends.

Now, as they prepare to make more arrests — possibly as soon as today — police in this stunned city are trying to find out why it may have taken between 20 and 35 minutes for the first cruiser to arrive at the scene.

"The neighbors ... were pleading (with police) to send somebody here," says St. Cecilia's the Rev. Daniel Kearns. "They were angry ... like, where was the response?"

Three suburban teen-agers — ages 16, 17 and 18 — already have been arrested and charged with murder in the beating death of 16-year-old Edward Polec.

“
The neighbors ... were pleading (with police) to send somebody here. They were angry ... like, where was the response?
”

— Rev. Daniel Kearns,
St. Cecilia's

The investigation into the dispatchers' response, and reports that more arrests are imminent, are just the latest developments in a story that has consumed the city and its suburbs.

It began in a McDonald's parking lot the night of Nov. 11, when police say a mob from the nearby suburb of Abington Township piled into five cars and drove into the city's Fox Chase neighborhood looking for a fight.

Police say they sought retaliation against a group of Philadelphia teens for the rumored rape of an unidentified Abington girl — a rumor that later turned out to be false.

The group spotted Polec and his friends, and chased them toward the church. When Polec tripped and fell, police said, several members of the mob grabbed him and held him up so others could take clear swings at his head with baseball bats. By the time police arrived, his skull was fractured in seven places. He died Nov. 12.

"It was just so sad," Kearns says. "It reminded me of *West Side Story*."

Police and area residents say long-standing neighborhood rivalries in northeast Philadelphia and its suburbs — middle class, predominantly white communities — may have contributed to the rumors and the mob anger.

But no one ever expected things to turn so violent. "This kind of thing happens in other neighborhoods," Kearns says.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that telephone logs from Nov. 11 show police dispatchers received 16 calls, but apparently classified them as low priority. Police Commissioner Richard Neal ordered an investigation after listening to the tapes — which the *Inquirer* says also show that dispatchers were rude to callers.

More than a week after the deadly beating, area students and their parents still are being counseled on how to deal with the incident. "There's been a truce drawn between neighborhoods," says Kearns. "The kids have decided to put an end to it."

Radiation tests used inmates as guinea pigs

By Paul Hoversten
USA TODAY

Some of the most gruesome human radiation experiments — exposure of prisoners' testicles to high X-ray doses — are coming under a presidential panel's scrutiny.

The 14-member Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments today holds a field hearing in Spokane, Wash., to review tests on 131 inmates at prisons in Oregon and Washington from 1963-71.

The experiments on 67 men at Oregon State Prison and 64 at Washington State Prison were first disclosed in a 1976 lawsuit by 20 former prisoners and were summarized in a 1986 congressional study by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

But much of the data about the tests has only recently been declassified. Today's hearing is designed, in part, to determine whether compensation or medical follow-up is warranted. About half of the prisoners are believed to be alive.

Funded by the old Atomic Energy Commission, now the Energy Department, the tests were to see how much radiation NASA's astronauts could survive on trips to the moon.

But some of the prisoners have cited problems including prostate cancer, loss of vision, testicular tumors and other diseases that may have been caused by the research.

"We can be blamed for being duped but nobody ever sat us down and explained what the tests were all about and what the complications were," ex-inmate Robert Garrison, 54, told *The Washington Post*.

The Oregon tests were carried out on prisoners aged 25-52. Each signed a consent order, accepted a \$5-to-\$10 payment and agreed to receive a vasectomy and \$100 more at the end of the irradiation.

Their testicles were irradiated in a single session with up to 120 times the annual occupational radiation limit for reproductive organs. All men later had vasectomies.

The Washington tests were similar to Oregon's, with prisoners getting up to 80 times the annual radiation dosage. Six, however, did not have vasectomies and it is not known whether any later fathered children.

The federal radiation committee has



By Marcy Nighswander, AP

“
This appearance of treating some citizens as 'expendable' ... is especially repugnant in a country that prides itself on its diversity.
”

— Hazel O'Leary,
Energy secretary

looked into hundreds of federally sponsored Cold War experiments since last year and is expected to make its report by next summer.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who prompted the government-wide review, has criticized as "disturbing" the use of test subjects like prisoners, pregnant women and mentally retarded children.

"This appearance of treating some citizens as 'expendable' ... is especially repugnant in a country that prides itself on its diversity and that has as its goal providing equal opportunity for all its citizens."

Another season of suffering in Bosnia

By Tom Squitieri
USA TODAY

ANALYSIS

The snow has begun to fall again in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Humanitarian aid supplies are shrinking. Bosnian Serbs again attack U.N. safe areas.

And NATO and U.N. officials again seem unsure about what to do.

Everything old is new once again as the Bosnian conflict enters its third winter.

In yet another turnabout of war momentum, Bosnian Serbs have recaptured almost 95 square miles of territory grabbed by the Muslim-led Bosnian government forces in an Oct. 28 offensive.

Even more unsettling to the

United Nations: the attack on the Bihac safe area by Bosnian Serbs, Croatian Serbs and renegade Muslim forces.

Twice Serbs have bombed the area, including dropping cluster bombs and napalm.

On Sunday, Serb tanks blasted Bihac and seized the town's waterworks, apparently trying to capture the region before the United Nations could react.

Undergunned U.N. troops went on alert for protection from Serb attacks and from growing civilian unease after the second Serb air attack.

U.N. spokesman Jan-Dirk Merveldt, in Bihac, said there is "major concern" for the safe-

ty of U.N. peacekeepers.

"NATO has to silence the Serb artillery batteries and clear the air space above Bosnia of their aircraft," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Sunday.

That often is said in regards to Bosnia and the safe areas, established in May 1993. It has not always succeeded:

► Three safe areas in eastern Bosnia — Zepa, Srebrenica and Gorazde — remain isolated from humanitarian aid because of Serb roadblocks.

► NATO jets destroyed an empty Bosnian Serb T-55 tank on September 22 following a Serb attack on French U.N. armored vehicle.

Serbs reacted by blocking

aid convoys, halting the airlift to Sarajevo, cutting off Sarajevo's utilities and impeding the movement of U.N. personnel through Serb-held territory.

► Serbs continue to shell Tuzla, another safe haven.

Requests for NATO air support have been denied. Dutch peacekeepers there now are rationing supplies.

► NATO jets hit a Serb artillery command post and a tank in two separate strikes near the Gorazde safe area on April 10 and 11 to halt a Serb assault.

But that attack continued unchecked. Advancing Serb forces killed a British soldier, shot down a British jet, placed 50 U.N. military observers under house arrest, surrounded

U.N. positions with mines and arrested aid workers.

NATO now wants to strike the Serb airfields at Udbina, located in the Krajina region of Croatia occupied by Serbs since the summer of 1991.

The shift in dynamics is marked from last February, when U.N. resolve was clear and NATO muscle unleashed.

After Serb shells killed dozens of civilians in Sarajevo, NATO told Serbs to move their guns or lose them.

Most guns were moved and a cease-fire started, which was shattered this month.

Then on February 28, U.S. F-16 planes shot down four Serb aircraft on a bombing run over Bosnia in the first military



USA TODAY

action ever by NATO.

"Bihac is burning. Velika Kladisa is burning, the sky and the earth is burning," Sarajevo radio's reporter in Bihac

broadcast Sunday. "Come from New York and implement your resolutions."

► U.N. action, 1A

USA TODAY • MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1994

Date: 11/15/94 Time: 08:44

Cancer Patients Subjected to Cold War Radiation Experiments

WASHINGTON (AP) The government sponsored at least eight Cold War experiments in which cancer patients were bombarded with total-body radiation to learn more about radiation's effects, researchers say.

Documents uncovered by the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments show that in many of the cases the radiation treatment had little or no therapeutic value because the patients suffered from radiation-resistant diseases, according to a committee staff report.

Gary Stern, a senior researcher for the committee, said in presenting the staff findings Monday that in many cases it is unclear whether the cancer patients had been adequately advised of the risks involved.

The experiments all on civilian patients were carried out from the 1940s to the early 1970s.

The existence of such experiments, especially those at the University of Cincinnati in the 1960s, has been generally known. But the staff report is the broadest documentation so far of the extent of the total-body radiation experiments and the Defense Department's involvement.

The advisory panel was created by President Clinton last December to look into the extent of experimentation on humans during the Cold War. One aspect of the panel's review is to determine whether sick patients were subjected to radiation doses for purposes other than treating their illnesses.

The staff report said 20 experiments were documented as occurring in the 1940s through 1974, but it said the review is not yet complete and others are likely to be found. The report focused on 10 experiments in which the therapeutic value of the radiation appeared to be minimal or there was sponsorship by either the Defense Department or the 1940s Manhattan Project.

The 10 experiments involved as many as 1,000 cancer patients, including several hundred that suffered from radiation-resistant types of cancer making the whole-body exposure questionable on medical grounds alone, the staff report suggested. Eight of those experiments had government sponsorship.

While some of the patients were extremely ill, others appeared to be in relatively good health given their medical condition and lived for months, even a year or more, after treatment, according to uncovered documents.

The military's interest in total-body radiation stemmed from a need in the 1940s and 1950s to learn more about the impact of radiation exposure to military personnel in nuclear war.

One set of experiments involving 263 cancer patients from 1951 through 1956 at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston caught intense Defense Department interest because officials hoped it would help the Air Force learn more about how radiation might affect pilots of a proposed nuclear-powered airplane.

"A number of patients were given a series of psycho-motor tests to perform before and after receiving specified doses" in the M.D. Anderson experiments, the staff report said.

Federal funding for many of the experiments occurred despite an agreement by high-ranking defense officials in the late 1940s against using human subjects in whole-body radiation experiments, said Daniel Guttman, the advisory panel's executive director.

In the case of the M.D. Anderson experiments, an Air Force document cited a ``pressing'' need to learn more about radiation and the human body and it said civilian cancer patients are ``considered potentially valuable ... (because) this is currently the sole source of human data,'' according to the staff findings.

Other cases cited by in the advisory committee report involved experiments conducted at:

The Memorial Hospital, New York in the 1940s; the University of California Hospital in San Francisco, 1942-46; the Chicago Tumor Clinic, 1943-44; Baylor University, 1954-1963; Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York, 1954-1961; the Naval Medical Research Institute, 1959-1960; City of Hope Medical Center, Duarte, Calif., 1960-64; Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1958-1974; and the University of Cincinnati, 1960-1971.

APNP-11-15-94 0843EST

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS

1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20036

202-254-9795 (Phone)

202-254-9827 (Fax)

FAX TRANSMITTALNUMBER OF PAGES (including cover): 2

TO:

Phil Coplan

FROM:

Steve Klaidman

DATE:

RE:

If there are any problems with the transmission of this fax, please call 202-254-9795.

MESSAGE:

120,000 Cubans to South Florida, overwhelming

CORRECTIONS

A Maret School counselor overstated the prevalence of divorce among parents of the school's students in a Metro article yesterday. The school says the correct estimate is that 20 percent of the students have parents who are divorced.

An article Saturday about radiation testing incorrectly identified the federal agencies responsible for tests involving 23,000 participants. They were the Defense Department and forerunners of the Energy Department. The article also misstated the reason for intentional releases of radioactive substances. Most were used to track isotopes in the environment. On the issue of cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the departments of Defense and Energy have agreed to allow panel members to review classified documents on the experiments, but have not agreed to declassify such documents.

terdicted at sea will be allowed into the United States—a reversal of almost 35 years of preferential treatment toward those fleeing Castro's communist government.

Attorney Jose Garcia-Pedrosa called the conditions at the "safe havens" in Guantanamo "revolting and appalling" and argued that Cubans detained at the naval base should be allowed to apply for asylum, just as Cubans can do in Havana.

For weeks, Cuban American leaders and White House and State Department officials have been meeting in an attempt to settle the issue quietly. But 10 days ago in a meeting with White House counsel, the Cuban Americans were told that nothing would be resolved before the Nov. 8 election, according to participants at the meeting.

"We were told to be patient," said former Miami mayor Xavier Suarez, who attended the White House sessions. He said the White House offered no timetable for release of the Cuban detainees or any promises that many of the 30,000 refugees would soon be able to make asylum claims.

"We told them we were sympathetic to the political concerns, but that we could not wait much longer," Suarez said.

There are now 23,699 Cubans in Guantanamo and 8,206 in Panama. Most live in spartan dusty tent cities surrounded by razor-sharp concertina wire.

The Clinton administration announced Oct. 14 that it would allow Cubans with dire medical problems to come to the United States, as well as rafters

Roll
F
arg
to
refu
C
cutt
ed
fami
der
come
grow
dered
to be
press
On
he con
tanam
States
Th
flux fr
courag
the las
dize th
Sachs,
The
that the
that ran
United
measur
Export
growth

Tracking the Economy

Oct. 24, 1994

Key statistics scheduled to be released this week:

ECONOMIC INDICATOR	PERIOD	RELEASE DATE	PREVIOUS ACTUAL	TECHNICAL DATA CONSENSUS FORECAST
Consumer Confidence	October	Tuesday	88.4	89.0
Durable Goods Orders	September	Wednesday	+6.1%	No change
Initial Jobless Claims	Week to Oct. 22	Thursday	326,000	325,000
Money Supply: M2	Week to Oct. 17	Thursday	-\$3.8 billion	+\$0.8 billion
Gross Domestic Product	3rd qtr. (prelim.)	Friday	+4.1%	+3.0%

Source: Technical Data

New Guidelines to Toughen Monitoring Of Derivatives Transactions by Banks

By ALBERT R. KARR
And BECKY GAYLORD

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Financial regulators are taking steps to strengthen their formal examinations of banks' dealings in derivatives.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, overseer of the big national banks that most typically engage in derivative transactions, is announcing a detailed compendium of procedures for the agency's examiners to follow in monitoring activity in the controversial instruments. The 93-page booklet on "Risk Management of Financial Derivatives" will be used to examine the approximately 350 nationally chartered banks that use derivatives, out of the 3,300 regulated by the comptroller, the office said.

The new OCC guidelines on bank

derivatives activities expand ones issued a year ago. As a "bible" for examiners, the booklet will give them more precision for assessing national banks' internal controls and methods, said Douglas Harris, senior deputy comptroller for capital markets.

Meanwhile, Ricki Tigert, the new chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which regulates about 7,200 state-chartered banks, said she has started a review of the FDIC's perusal of bank transactions, including examinations of derivatives activity. The review aims to "beef up" the agency's ability to respond to any need for regulatory changes.

Derivatives are often complex financial instruments linked to an underlying asset, such as mortgages or exchange or interest rates. They have become controversial as some large investors, and others, have

Please Turn to Page A4, Column 2

No CIA Data on Radiation Experiments Have Been Given to Advisory Committee

By TIMOTHY NOAH

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — The chairwoman of an Energy Department advisory committee on Cold War human-radiation experiments said the panel hasn't received documents sought from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ruth Faden, a medical ethicist at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health who heads the committee, said the group received "remarkable cooperation" from most federal agencies. According to an interim report the committee released, the panel has amassed a database of 400 government-sponsored experiments between 1944 and 1975, and compiled "at least fragmentary data" on an additional 1,000 experiments.

But Ms. Faden said the CIA has repeatedly told the committee it has no data on any experiments exposing individuals to radiation. Documents obtained by the committee from other agencies indicate that officials who were involved in CIA mind-control experiments in the 1950s and 1960s were "probable participants" in planning radiation experiments, accord-

ing to the interim report. Data on these activities may have been lost when the CIA destroyed files related to the mind-control experiments in 1973, however.

David Christian, a CIA spokesman, said the agency had "absolutely no indication that human-radiation experiments ever were carried out by the CIA for the CIA." He added that although CIA officials did appear to have participated in Defense Department meetings on human-radiation experiments, the agency's role "seemed to have been providing information and analysis on what the Soviet Union was doing along the same lines."

Ms. Faden also said the committee will consider recommending various forms of redress for participants in the experiments and their descendants, ranging from a public apology by the government to medical monitoring to cash payments.

Ms. Faden said she didn't know precisely what actions the panel will recommend in its final report, due in April, or whether the group would issue recommendations on compensation prior to the April release.

New Guide Tightens Formal Monitoring Of Banks' Derivatives

Continued From Page A2

been hit by sizable losses from derivatives trading.

The comptroller's new guidelines are one of a series of moves by financial regulators aimed at getting or taking control of the derivatives trend, partly to head off threatened federal legislation that would curb derivative activity. Regulators have moved, for instance, toward setting capital or risk limits on derivatives trading, while the Federal Accounting Standards Board is instituting tighter rules governing disclosure of derivatives activity and the accounting methods banks must use in showing the value of derivatives-related offerings that are due to be marketed.

Mr. Harris said the comptroller's office has already examined most nationally chartered banks, using the earlier guidelines, and found that most "are in substantial compliance."

He said the new guidelines are "substantially similar" to a trading manual for derivatives issued last spring by the Federal Reserve Board, which regulates about 970 state-chartered Fed members and 5,360 bank holding companies. The comptroller's guidelines set differing exam methods for different types of derivatives users. Dealers and end users of the instruments will face different criteria for managing risk, for example.

Supervision will be tailored to the "risk profile" of each type of user. Smaller banks have had more trouble identifying complex and risky derivatives transactions, Mr. Harris said.

Different procedures are also prescribed for evaluating market risk, credit risk and legal risk. The majority of losses in swaps markets have resulted from banks' inattention to legal risk, which can occur if a party to a derivatives contract lacks the legal authority to enter into it, Mr. Harris said.

Swaps involve an exchange of streams of payments over time, according to preset terms. A common type is an interest-rate swap, in which one party agrees to pay a fixed interest rate in return for receiving a floating rate from another party.

Oregon Takes on Another Taboo, With Measure To Let Doctors Aid Suicide by Dying Patients

By BARBARA ROSEWICZ

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Oregon, often a laboratory for cutting-edge cultural reforms, is threatening to crash another of society's ethical barriers.

Its voters next month could make Oregon the first place in the world to give

Battle Over Smoking

The battle over a ballot measure to weaken California's tough antismoking laws is heating up in the final weeks before the vote. Article on page B12.

doctors clear legal authority to help dying patients commit suicide.

Even though similar ballot initiatives failed earlier in two states, forces at work in Oregon this year are enhancing chances voters there may approve a measure legalizing physician-assisted suicide. If that happens, Oregon will shatter one of American society's taboos by taking the first publicly sanctioned steps down the path blazed in Michigan by suicide doctor Jack Kevorkian.

Up to now, the public and the courts have shown growing acceptance of giving the terminally ill greater control over their

deaths by rejecting heroic medical intervention and even tube feeding. But American society hasn't yet crossed the line to condoning suicide as a treatment alternative. If the Oregon measure passes, "it's going to raise alarm bells," says Dr. Albert Jonsen, an expert on medical ethics at the University of Washington. "On the other hand, it will also bring a sense of relief and justice to a lot of other people."

Recent polls show about 60% of Oregonians support the right-to-die measure, although TV ads for and against the measure that will help shape final opinions are only beginning to air.

There are a series of political forces at work that help explain the support so far. Most importantly, right-to-die advocates have taken careful steps to try to tailor the ballot initiative into something acceptable to doctors and mainstream citizens. It rejects the Kevorkian-style machines that enable a patient to self-administer a lethal dose of drugs intravenously. It also seeks to avoid the specter of doctors wielding lethal syringes that scared voters in Washington state and California into rejecting broader right-to-die initiatives in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

Instead, the measure would permit doctors to prescribe pills that a patient could

take to end his own life. The suicide option would be available only to adult patients with less than six months to live who get a second medical opinion, make three requests for suicide pills and don't appear to be suffering from depression or a mental disorder.

The makeup of Oregon itself means it's friendly territory for such social experiments. It has long been an independent-minded state that was a pioneer in decriminalizing marijuana, was the first to make rape in marriage illegal and is now experimenting with rationing publicly financed health care. Home of the Hemlock society, it has one of nation's lowest ratios of churchgoers, a significant factor because the strongest opposition to right-to-die proposals comes from church leaders. Another source of potential opposition has been neutralized because the state chapter of the American Medical Association was too split to embrace the national group's ethical guidelines against physician-assisted suicide and instead has chosen to stay on the sidelines.

On a more emotional level, right-to-die proponents got an unexpected and deeply personal endorsement when the state's governor said she will vote for ballot measure 16, as it is known. Outgoing Gov. Barbara Roberts's husband, Frank, died a year ago after a prolonged and public fight with prostate cancer. By the end of his life, the governor says, her husband was weak and bedridden and lost the ability to read or communicate because of pain medication.

"I just know how painful it is to watch someone as they become more and more

physically diminished as their pain becomes greater," she says. "And when it becomes very clear that you have a terminal patient with no quality of life left, it's very hard not to have a sense of the patient's need to make a choice for himself."

Catholic Church's Campaign

All that leaves the Roman Catholic church in the state as the principal opponent trying to block passage of the ballot initiative, although several other denominations have voiced opposition as well. The Catholic church opposes suicide under any circumstances. The church is principally financing a \$1 million-plus campaign that seeks to convince voters that the measure is deeply flawed and will pave the way to many more suicides than proponents claim.

If voters approve the Oregon measure, it isn't likely to produce an instant cascade of acceptance in other states. More likely, Oregon would become a national test tube for doctor-assisted suicide, much as the Netherlands is closely watched now because it tolerates euthanasia even though it's technically illegal.

Some See Slippery Slope

Ethicists who follow the right-to-die issue predict that if the Oregon measure passes, it will become increasingly difficult to hold the line limiting suicide pills to a strictly defined group. "Once you start saying you can do this, how do you draw a line at that group of patients? What's significant about six months?" says Alexander Capron, an ethicist at the University of Southern California who has written against right-to-die initiatives.

No one expects the national debate generated by Dr. Kevorkian's 20 assisted deaths to end in Oregon. "It's a debate that no matter what Oregon does will continue," says Pat McCormick, campaign director for the coalition opposing Measure 16.

The People Will Speak

A sampling of ballot initiative proposals to be decided by voters in various states on Nov. 8:

STATE	PROPOSAL
Alaska	Declaration of rights for victims of crime; federal term limits
Arkansas	Authorize a casino and create a state gambling commission
Arizona	Inhibit government action that lowers value of private property; tobacco tax for health care; restrict the right to sue for injuries
California	"Three strikes and out" provision to increase sentences for repeat felons; deny education and health services for illegal aliens; gas tax for public transportation; single-payer health system
Colorado	Tobacco tax for health and education revenue; state and federal term limits
Florida	Formula to limit growth of state revenue collections
Georgia	Mandatory sentences for violent crimes
Idaho	Restrict gay rights and education about gay lifestyles; federal and state term limits
Maine	Federal and state term limits
Massachusetts	Federal and state term limits; prohibit rent control
Missouri	Require government reimbursement for revenue lost to acquisition of lands for parks; constitutional amendment on riverboat gambling
Montana	Voter approval of all tax increases
Nevada	Impose federal, state and local term limits
Oregon	Right to die; restrict gay rights; mandatory sentences for violent crimes; require state prison inmates to work full time
Rhode Island	Allow gambling in certain cities
Utah	Impose federal and state term limits and require a runoff when no candidate receives a majority in an election

Source: The Hotline

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1994

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS

1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20036

202-254-9795 (Phone)

202-254-9827 (Fax)

FAX TRANSMITTALNUMBER OF PAGES (including cover): 17

TO:

Phil Caplan

FROM:

Dan Guttman

DATE:

RE:

If there are any problems with the transmission of this fax, please call 202-254-9795.

MESSAGE:

The New York Times

Circ: 1,145,890

OCT 22 1994

Panel Says U.S. May Have Done Thousands of Human Radiation Experiments

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Special to The New York Times

P.10

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 — The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments said today that the number of radiation experiments conducted by the Government and the military from 1944 to 1974 was likely to be "in the thousands," many times more than previously believed.

The committee issued an interim report halfway through its projected one-year term. The panel was charged by President Clinton with searching out information on human

radiation experiments in the United States, determining their ethical validity and suggesting whether the victims should be compensated.

The experiments included injection of radioactive plutonium into people's bodies, marching troops onto ground zero after a nuclear explosion and releasing radioactive substances into the air to track their progress or its effects.

The chairwoman of the committee, Dr. Ruth Faden, said that as an example of what the committee had found, the number of experiments in which radiation was deliberately released into the environment, be-

Slowly prying out the truth of cold-war exercises.

lieved by scholars to be 13 before the committee began its work, now appeared to be several hundred releases in dozens of experiments.

More than 400 experiments, some involving multiple instances of using radiation in human experimentation, have been officially logged by the committee. Dr. Faden said the number would probably rise to the thousands before the committee was finished with its work.

But Dr. Faden said the Defense Department had refused to declassify all the material on experiments involving the deliberate release of radiation, saying they were still matters of national security.

"In general, the agencies have been very cooperative," she said, "but we must now work out how to deal with the question of keeping some of these documents classified. We would like to make everything public."

The committee has accumulated about 250,000 papers, filling more than 180 cubic feet. Members of its staff estimate that more than 1,000 cubic feet of documents on human radiation experiments are scattered across agencies of the Government. The committee hopes to get a representative sample.

Now that documents are steadily coming in, Dr. Faden said, the committee will begin the second phase of its work: evaluating the ethics of the experiments and how they compare with current practices. The final report is due next summer.

The Washington Times

Circ: 73,674

OCT 23 1994

Closed files frustrate probe of radiation testing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A4

Members of a presidential panel combing through thousands of documents on radiation experiments say their work is hampered by the fact the government refuses to declassify many files.

Dr. Ruth Faden, head of President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, said Friday that defense officials were erecting "significant roadblocks" because of the classified files on radiation releases at weapons facilities during the Cold War years.

She noted that many files related to human radiation experiments have been declassified and

that the committee has had access to thousands of previously declassified documents. But major gaps remain because of files that have been destroyed, cannot be found or remain classified.

In an interim report, the advisory committee said there may have been more than 1,000 experiments involving human subjects as well as hundreds of other instances in which radiation was intentionally released as part of the government's nuclear weapons program.

Some of the experiments involved numerous subjects.

In many of the cases only fragmentary information has been

found or made available, Dr. Faden, a professor of bioethics at Johns Hopkins University, said at a news conference. "In a lot of cases, we may never have the kind of detailed information for drawing moral evaluations," she said.

The committee said its review has found hundreds of intentional releases of radiation — many more than previously suspected — as part of the country's nuclear programs between the 1940s and 1975.

Daniel Guttman, the panel's executive director, said some of the intentional releases involved tests on nuclear rockets, high explosives, nuclear aircraft technology and nuclear reactors at which accident scenarios were simulated at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

While the panel was advised previously of only 13 intentional releases of ionizing radiation into the environment, "the committee is now aware of hundreds of additional intentional releases," the interim report said.

The radiation releases occurred over many years at several weapons facilities. Included were those at Hanford, Wash.; Los Alamos, N.M.; the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas; Oak Ridge, Tenn.; plants near Portsmouth, Ohio and Paducah, Ky.; the DOE weapons laboratory in Idaho and the Nevada nuclear test site, Mr. Guttman said.

The report said four releases had been cited at Los Alamos but that DOE documents now show "the number of such tests approximate 250."

Dr. Faden, the committee chairman, said that of the 400 biomedical experiments involving human subjects documented so far, it is clear some may have had therapeutic goals while others were aimed simply at learning more about radiation's effects on the body.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. OCT 24 1994

Circ: 1,852,863

No CIA Data on Radiation Experiments Have Been Given to Advisory Committee

By TIMOTHY NOAH

A9C

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — The chairwoman of an Energy Department advisory committee on Cold War human-radiation experiments said the panel hasn't received documents sought from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ruth Faden, a medical ethicist at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health who heads the committee, said the group received "remarkable cooperation" from most federal agencies. According to an interim report the committee released, the panel has amassed a database of 400 government-sponsored experiments between 1944 and 1975, and compiled "at least fragmentary data" on an additional 1,000 experiments.

But Ms. Faden said the CIA has repeatedly told the committee it has no data on any experiments exposing individuals to radiation. Documents obtained by the committee from other agencies indicate that officials who were involved in CIA mind-control experiments in the 1950s and 1960s were "probable participants" in planning radiation experiments, accord-

ing to the interim report. Data on these activities may have been lost when the CIA destroyed files related to the mind-control experiments in 1973, however.

David Christian, a CIA spokesman, said the agency had "absolutely no indication that human-radiation experiments ever were carried out by the CIA for the CIA." He added that although CIA officials did appear to have participated in Defense Department meetings on human-radiation experiments, the agency's role "seemed to have been providing information and analysis on what the Soviet Union was doing along the same lines."

Ms. Faden also said the committee will consider recommending various forms of redress for participants in the experiments and their descendants, ranging from a public apology by the government to medical monitoring to cash payments.

Ms. Faden said she didn't know precisely what actions the panel will recommend in its final report, due in April, or whether the group would issue recommendations on compensation prior to the April release.

Amarillo ~~REDACTED~~ News-Globe

(Circ: 77,464) DAY Sat DATE 10-22-94 PAGE 1A

Report: Cold War experiments more extensive than thought

WASHINGTON (AP) — Intentional radiation releases and human experiments appear to have been frequent and widespread in the government's Cold War nuclear programs, a presidential panel said Friday.

In an interim report, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments said it documented at least 400 cases of human medical experiments involving radiation and had "fragmentary indications" of 1,000 more.

It also said it found hundreds of intentional releases of radiation — many more than previously suspected — occurred as part of the country's nuclear programs between the 1940s and 1975. It was not clear from the data provided how many of those releases involved exposure of the general public or what levels of exposure were involved.

The advisory committee said only four intentional radiation releases had been acknowledged at Los Alamos National Laboratory in

New Mexico, where implosion tests involving radioactive materials were conducted for many years. DOE documents now show "the number of such tests approximate 250," said the report.

But John Gustafson, a spokesman for Los Alamos lab, said from Los Alamos that "it's flat-out false" only four tests were previously made public.

Dr. Ruth Faden, the committee's chairwoman, said detailed information about many cases nationwide may never be known because of scant or missing documents. She also complained of "significant roadblocks" still being erected by government officials who are refusing to declassify information about many of the radiation releases involving nuclear weapons programs.

"In a lot of cases we may never have the kind of detailed information for drawing moral evaluations," said Faden, a professor of bio-ethics at Johns Hopkins University.

A10 • The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Saturday, October 22, 1994

Secrecy stymies radiation panel

Some documents can't be found

By Karen MacPherson
Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — A federal panel investigating human radiation experiments during the Cold War has made progress but faces significant roadblocks, the chairwoman said Friday.

Ruth Faden, who heads the White House Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, said many documents focusing on intentional radiation releases by government scientists remain classified for national security reasons.

In addition, other potentially important documents have been destroyed or simply cannot be found, Faden told a news conference.

Faden's comments came as the 14-member panel released a legally required interim report on its activities, which are expected to cost the taxpayers \$4.5 million.

The committee, composed of White House-picked scientists, ethicists and medical specialists, will release a final report, including recommendations for compensation to any victims, next April.

The committee's 41-page interim report details its efforts to ensure that federal agencies find and release all relevant docu-

ments telling about human radiation experiments and intentional radiation releases sponsored by the federal government from 1944 through 1974.

Many of those experiments apparently were designed to provide medical help to the subjects, Faden said, but others — such as plutonium injections — were done to prove scientific theories and may have actually harmed those involved.

Hamstringing the committee's efforts to date have been top-secret classifications on many docu-

ments involving intentional radiation releases.

Government officials maintain that releasing the documents could allow a Third World power access to important bomb-making technical details.

Faden said she and other committee members recently received security clearances, but they are debating whether they want to look at information.

Classified information would not be allowed to be included in the committee's final recommendations, which will be made public.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS OCT 22 1994

New radiation testing shocker

NEWS WIRE SERVICES

F. 33

WASHINGTON — The federal government conducted more radiation tests on humans and released far more radiation during the Cold War than previously acknowledged, a presidential committee said yesterday.

The advisory committee of medical, science and ethics experts appointed by President Clinton last December said in an interim report that it found evidence of at least 1,000 more human radiation experiments aside from the 400 experiments recorded in government data bases.

"It probably will be in the thousands before we finish," said committee chairwoman Ruth Faden.

The Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, which is ex-

pected to release a final report in April, also said it was "now aware of hundreds of additional intentional releases" of ionizing radiation in addition to the 13 cases it was assigned to probe.

Faden, a professor of bio-ethics at Johns Hopkins University, said the panel's goals were to make public as many documents as possible on radiation experiments between 1944 and 1974; consider a range of remedies for those harmed or wronged and examine the current state of human radiation research.

The panel has delved through thousands of once-classified documents released by the Energy Department, the Defense Department, the Veterans' Administration, the CIA and other agencies that dealt with radiation and the people exposed to it through experiments or military maneuvers.

476

DENVER-ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS OCT 22 1994

Panel reveals more radiation experiments

Reuter

A49

WASHINGTON — The federal government conducted at least 1,000 more radiation tests on people and released far more radiation during the Cold War than previously acknowledged, a presidential committee said Friday.

The advisory committee of medical, science and ethics experts appointed by President Clinton last winter said in an interim report that it found evidence of at least 1,000 more human radiation experiments aside from the 400 experiments that had been recorded in government databases.

"It probably will be in the thousands before we finish," said Ruth Faden, the medical ethicist who chaired the panel.

The panel also said it was "now aware of hundreds of additional intentional releases" of ionizing radiation in addition to the 13 cases it was assigned to investigate.

Faden said the panel's goals were to make public as many documents as possible on experiments between 1944 and 1974; consider a range of remedies for those harmed or wronged; and examine the current state of radiation research.

The advisory panel was named after a spate of media reports of secret experiments on sometimes unknowing subjects.

While many government-backed experiments appeared to have valid reasons, such as cancer research, some seemed to have dubious purposes, administration officials have said.

The committee is to release a final report in April, a year after it formally started its investigation. The document released Friday was largely an outline of how it will approach its remaining work.

The panel has delved through thousands of once-classified documents released by the Energy Department, the Defense Department, the Veterans' Administration, the CIA and other agencies that dealt with radiation and the people exposed to it through experiments or military maneuvers.

"I think that the key point is the continuing difficulties in getting agency cooperation with the document search process that is absolutely critical to what the committee needs to do," said Daryl Kimball of Physicians for Social Responsibility. "The CIA is probably the most egregious example."

8425

18

BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS

DENVER POST

OCT 22 1994

Panel finds radiation tests using people widespread, secret

By Earl Lane
Newsday

A9

WASHINGTON — A presidential commission looking into government-sponsored human radiation experiments during the Cold War era has collected data on 400 studies conducted before 1975, about 10 times as many as had been disclosed in a 1986 congressional report.

The panel also is studying several hundred cases — far more than the 13 it was originally asked to examine — in which radiation was intentionally released for such purposes as radiation-warfare experiments, "tracer" studies on high explosives used in nuclear weapons design and basic research on how radioactivity affects plants and trees.

"We have had great success in identifying documents," said Ruth Faden, a Johns Hopkins University bioethicist who heads the commission. The White House created the panel in January after new disclosures about radiation experiments — including a series of plutonium injections — on people who may have received little or no information about the potential risks.

The panel must determine if any research subjects were harmed and are entitled to compensation.

Faden said it is too early to say how many of the experiments may

have been ethically suspect. She said many of the studies being reviewed involve medical uses of relatively low amounts of radiation for which some therapeutic benefit was anticipated.

The finding of additional radiation experiments was not unexpected. The panel has been overseeing a massive documents search by the Departments of Defense, Energy and Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies. In addition to the 400 experiments now in the commission's files, the commission has found fragmentary evidence on more than 1,000 other experiments.

Faden said the panel also has found there was a broader discussion within the government on the propriety of the experiments than had been publicly apparent.

But the debate went on largely behind closed doors. The Army adopted guidelines in 1953 drawn from the Nuremberg Code, ethical rules arising from the war crimes trials after World War II. But the guidelines were classified "top secret," Faden said.

Officials of the old Atomic Energy Commission also had discussions about the ethics of radiation experiments, Faden said, but a 1947 agency memo recommended that information on the experiments not be made public.

76-25

BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS

17

PAGE OF

Circulation 82,000 Daily
95,000 Sunday

THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE

Augusta, Georgia

Saturday - October 22, 1994
Page 15A
Page 1 of 2

SOUTH CAROLINA EDITION

Board details releases

■ None of the hundreds of
potentially harmful radiation
releases occurred at SRS

By John Winters
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of potentially intentional radiation releases from weapons plants have been uncovered by an independent review board, which also has found more than 1,000 cases of radiation experiments involving humans.

But committee members said they can't determine — at least for now — which, and how many, caused medical problems, raised ethical questions, hurt the environment or were unnecessary.

To date, none of the intentional releases found have involved Savannah River Site, according to members of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, who cited information

provided by the Energy Department. There also has not been any connection found between SRS and the human radiation experiments.

The committee, which is investigating experiments involving radiation used on humans, as well as intentional releases of radioactive materi-

— “ —
This is an interim report; we are talking with the public and victims and this (report) is about what we've done and where we hope to go.

Dr. Ruth Faden,
committee
chairwoman

Please see RADIATION on 18A

CONTINUED

Circulation 32,000 Daily
95,000 Sunday

THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE
Augusta, Georgia

Saturday - October 22, 1994
Page 19A
Page 2 of 2

SOUTH CAROLINA EDITION

Radiation: Board grapples with meaning of 'intentional'

Continued from 15A

sis from defense plants, released its interim report Friday.

"We really don't have any new information at this time," said Ruth Faden, committee chairwoman and professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at John Hopkins University. "This is an interim report; we are talking with the public and victims and this (report) is about what we've done and where we hope to go."

The committee already has built up a database of hundreds of pre-1975 biomedical experiments involving humans and radiation. It also has "at least fragmentary indications of over a thousand more experiments," the report said.

But Dr. Faden said, "We don't know yet what

fraction of those experiments offered no benefits to the patients."

The committee also was chartered to investigate 13 intentional releases of radioactive material into the environment. Those tests generally related to radiation warfare tests and development of radiation tracking equipment.

Committee members said they are aware of hundreds of additional releases. For example, the committee's charter included eight radiation warfare experiments; the number now is at least 53.

Dr. Faden acknowledged the committee is grappling with the question and definition of "intentional release." The answer, she said, may well lie in the intent of the release.

"There is a problem with the difference between an intentional release and a routine release," she said. "We are struggling with the concept of that."

The Washington Post

OCT 25 1994

Circ: 810,000

CORRECTIONS A3

An article Saturday about radiation testing incorrectly identified the federal agencies responsible for tests involving 23,000 participants. They were the Defense Department and forerunners of the Energy Department. The article also misstated the reason for intentional releases of radioactive substances. Most were used to track isotopes in the environment. On the issue of cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the departments of Defense and Energy have agreed to allow panel members to review classified documents on the experiments, but have not agreed to declassify such documents.

Above mentioned story dated Saturday, October 24, 1994, from The Washington Post appears on the following page.

CONTINUED

The Washington Post

Circ: 810,000

OCT 22 1994

Radiation Tests Were Widespread

Top Officials Knew of Experiments, Panel Says

By Gary Lee

Washington Post Staff Writer

Radiation experiments sponsored by the federal government were conducted on more than 23,000 Americans in about 1,400 different projects in the 30-year period after World War II, according to a report released yesterday by an independent panel studying the issue. The figures suggest that the deliberate exposure of humans to radiation during the Cold War was far more widespread than previously believed.

The panel, appointed by the Clinton administration to investigate the experiments, also has found that discussions about the ethical implications of radiation tests took place as early as 1953, and involved senior officials, including the secretary of defense. The panel has documented fully 400 government-backed biomedical experiments involving human exposure to radiation conducted between 1944 and 1975, and has received materials describing 1,000 other tests over the same period, the report said.

A 1986 congressional probe of federal radiation tests, commissioned by Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and until now considered the most authoritative account of radiation experiments, discussed only 31 separate experiments. In June, Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary revealed information about 48 additional experiments.

According to the picture painted in the panel's report and in an interview with the panel's chairman, government researchers carried out projects exposing thousands of U.S. military personnel and civilians to radioactive substances, in spite of ethical concerns that were raised in high-level government discussions.

"This suggests that experimentation was a much bigger deal than anyone knew," said Daryl Kimball,

associate director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. "And that is going to make the panel's work all that much harder."

Cold War researchers conducted several hundred so-called intentional releases, in which radioactive substances were emitted into the environment, usually to test human responses and often without the knowledge of those exposed, the panel's report said.

Federal officials had previously acknowledged overseeing only 13 such releases, including the controversial 1949 Green Run incident, in which significant amounts of radioactive iodine and other elements were emitted in eastern Washington state, where they drifted downwind and exposed people in surrounding communities.

While the Markey commission identified only 700 participants in federally sponsored radiation studies, at least 23,000 people now have been identified as taking part in the tests sponsored by the forerunners of the Health and Human Services Department, the Veterans Affairs Department and other departments, according to Ruth Faden, a Johns Hopkins University ethicist who chairs the panel.

That figure does not include those involved in tests sponsored by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy, Faden said. She added that "probably many thousands" of participants will be added to the total after individuals who participated in tests conducted by those departments are counted. Faden also emphasized that some of the experiments provided the participants with medical benefits but added that the number who benefited is not yet known.

Earlier this year, after O'Leary and the Albuquerque Tribune newspaper brought the extensive use of humans in federal radiation tests to national

attention, President Clinton appointed an interagency task force to explore the implications of the issue.

The task force in turn appointed the panel. Officially called the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, it is made up of 14 leading ethicists, medical researchers and legal experts.

Among the material already reviewed by the panel are documents suggesting that discussions took place about the radiation experiments among senior Truman administration officials. In 1953, then-Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and the secretaries of the Army and Navy joined in the discussion, according to documents in the panel's files.

"Until now, we were under the impression that debate about the issue only took place among lower-level officials and laboratory researchers," Faden said.

Despite the discussions, which touched on such questions as informed consent and how much patients should be told about the tests, there are indications that the reservations of senior officials about the radiation issue were not relayed to laboratory researchers who conducted the tests.

Over the next six months, Faden said, the panel will address key questions about the experiments, such as the extent to which researchers gained the consent of participants, how participants were chosen and whether participants should be compensated for damages they suffered. The panel's final report is due in April.

The panel is supposed to collect data about experiments sponsored across the federal government, but it has not received full cooperation from all agencies, according to the report.

For example, the departments of Defense and Energy have refused to hand over documents relating to the intentional releases. Officials from the agencies have refused to declassify the documents, citing national security concerns, Faden said.

Central Intelligence Agency officials have said the agency was not involved in radiation tests and have refused to give any files to the panel. But the panel has found that CIA officials were at least involved in discussions about the tests in the early 1950s.

The agencies' refusal to cooperate already are causing "roadblocks" for the committee, Faden said.

OCT-24-1994 09:29 FROM OFF of EXT AFFAIRS-DOE/NU TO

HQ(PA-1)FORS

P.02/08

Las Vegas Review-Journal, 10/22/94 (1B)

(Circulation: 140,494 daily; 208,789 Sunday)

Civilians planned NTS medical tests

□ In the '50s, a committee of nonmilitary physicians helped design experiments on troops at the test site.

By Tony Batt
Donrey Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Civilian doctors assisted the government in conducting medical experiments on soldiers who witnessed nuclear blasts in the 1950s at the Nevada Test Site, a presidential committee said Friday.

The experiments included psychiatric tests and eye examinations of witnesses after they had seen the flash of a nuclear explosion.

Other experiments, called one-point tests, were conducted at the test site, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, to see if a nuclear bomb would explode if struck accidentally, and they may have resulted in the release of radiation into the atmosphere.

The experiments were discussed Friday as the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments released an interim report on its first six months of work.

"We learned in the '70s there was psychological testing done on the soldiers that were out there," said Dan Guttman, executive director of the committee.

"What we didn't know was that there were these sets of committees whose task was to determine how to make the most use of these (nuclear) tests," he said. "It wasn't just generals saying, 'Let's get the troops out there for maneuvers to see how they would react in a nuclear war.'"

The Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare, which included civilian doctors and a chairman who was a Harvard physician, was formed in 1949 and drafted plans in the early 1950s for biomedical experiments during the nuclear blasts.

"A number of them were carried out," Guttman said. "For example, some of the planning documents said: 'Let's test the vision — the effect of a bomb or detonation on the vision of the

people around it.' So we know now they had flash blindness tests."

Other documents showed the joint panel recommending that as many people as possible should be exposed to a nuclear bomb test under safe conditions, so reliable psychological data could be collected, Guttman said.

"There is a memo from the surgeon general of the Army saying we'd like to be involved in the psychological testing of troops, so take it out of our budget," Guttman said.

"The question is what happens when you have doctors advising on the safety level and at the same time saying this is a very good opportunity to get data," he said.

The committee also has uncovered evidence that residents living near the test site may have been exposed to radiation without their knowledge or informed consent. Examples include the following:

—One-point tests, in which nuclear bombs were struck at one particular point to see if they would explode if hit accidentally. The tests left "a lot of dirty stuff like alpha particles," Guttman said.

—The testing of a nuclear-powered rocket at the test site in 1965, which produced a radioactive cloud that drifted over Los Angeles, exposing 6 million residents to radiation.

—Dr. Ruth Faden, chairwoman

of the committee, said the panel has uncovered about 400 radiation experiments by the government from 1944 to 1974 and expects to find more. Although praising the Energy and Defense departments for their cooperation so far, Faden said the committee has faced resistance from both departments in trying to obtain information about intentional releases of radiation.

LOS ANGELES TIMES OCT 22 1994

Cold War Secrecy Tied to Radiation Peril

Ethics: Closed debate on government's atomic testing decades ago meant contractors, researchers were unaware of human dangers, report says.

By MELISSA HEALY **A29**
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Investigators reviewing the history of government-sponsored atomic experiments concluded Friday that Cold War secrecy and bureaucratic sprawl created a patchwork of policies that unwittingly exposed many humans to potentially dangerous radiation.

In a preliminary report, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments found that atomic government officials extensively debated the need for human experimentation and the policies that should govern it. But because that debate was often secret, many contractors and university researchers, apparently were unaware of legal and ethical concerns surrounding the experiments they were paid to conduct.

In 1954, for example, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson directed that human radiation exper-

iments conducted by the Defense Department should follow the strict code of medical ethics that emerged from the post-war Nuremberg trials. But he classified his directive "top secret," which meant that it could not be shared with many involved in the programs.

"That's one of the most intriguing and perplexing problems we came up with," said Ruth Faden, a medical ethicist from Johns Hopkins University named to lead the 11-member panel. "We are still trying to figure out why anybody in his right mind would adopt an ethical policy and then classify it secret."

Faden said that her panel, established by Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary last April, has largely documented the existence of some 400 government-sponsored radiation experiments that exposed humans to radiation between 1947 and 1977. But Faden added that, by the time the huge data-gathering effort is completed, the number of experiments "will probably be in the thousands."

Among those are hundreds of experiments in which Energy Department contractors intentionally released radiation into the general population to study its effects. That is many times more than the 13 intentional releases the committee

had known about earlier, including one in which radiation released from a planned rocket malfunction drifted over Los Angeles.

In spite of appearances, however, committee members said it was clear that the experiments were not conducted in an ethical vacuum. Faden said there were active debates, some involving senior officials, university leaders and leading scientists, about what ethical guidelines should govern the experiments.

Even when guidelines were drafted in the open and made available widely, they apparently were not always carried out in the field. In many cases, scientists seemed unsure which government agency's policy governed their research.

In other cases, there was confusion over such questions as whether guidelines governing experimentation on normal, healthy adults extended to those who were in institutions or gravely ill.

While the committee found evidence of ethical debates, Faden said, "It would be a mistake to leave the impression . . . that this discussion was a result of ethical soul-searching about whether this was something we ought to be undertaking as a nation."

Much of the debate that took place in late 1940s and early 1950s

"may well have been animated by straightforward legal concerns about liability—we're not sure about that—but also perhaps about insurance and public relations issues," Faden said.

Secrecy also has hampered efforts to construct a full picture of the government's vast apparatus of experimentation.

"Significant collections of relevant material are still classified," the report said.

The Energy Department, which is being pressed by O'Leary to be more forthcoming on nuclear matters, has said that it must protect much of the documentation on 250 tests in which radioactive lanthanum was intentionally released into the atmosphere by Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico.

The Defense Department has similarly refused to declassify information related to a 1949 experiment in which it released radioisotopes into the atmosphere from the Hanford Nuclear Plant in Washington state.

Committee members said that the Central Intelligence Agency also has been reluctant to locate and declassify documents about its participation in the planning of government-sponsored human experiments involving radioactivity.

Only Faden and six of the committee's staff members have been granted security clearances allowing them to comb through millions of pages of secret documents.

**RADIO
TV REPORTS****NATIONAL MARKET COVERAGE****TRANSCRIPT**

FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY **STATION** WUSA-TV
CBS Network
PROGRAM CBS Evening News **CITY** Washington, D.C.
DATE October 21, 1994 7:00 PM **AUDIENCE**
SUBJECT Radiation Experiments

New York: 212-309-1400
Chicago: 312-541-2020
Detroit: 810-344-1177
Boston: 617-536-2232
Philadelphia: 215-567-7600
San Francisco: 415-395-9131
Miami: 305-358-3358
Washington: 301-656-4068
Los Angeles: 213-466-6124

BROADCAST EXCERPT

CONNIE CHUNG: There are new disclosures tonight about the U.S. government's secret radiation experiments during the cold war.

A presidential panel says the government made more -- many more intentional releases of radioactive material into the air than previously known. Also, there were hundreds more radiation experiments on humans than previously revealed.

HOUSTON POST

OCT 22 1994

Panel says federal government conducted many more radiation tests than it admits

REUTER NEWS SERVICE

P.A23

WASHINGTON — The federal government conducted at least 1,000 more radiation tests on people and released far more radiation during the Cold War than previously acknowledged, a presidential committee said Friday.

The advisory committee of medical, science and ethics experts appointed by President Clinton last winter said in an interim report that it found evidence of at least 1,000 more human radiation experiments aside from the 400 experiments that had been recorded in government databases.

"It probably will be in the thousands before we finish," Ruth Faden, the medical ethicist who chaired the panel said at a news briefing to release the report.

The panel also said it was "now aware of hundreds of additional intentional releases" of ionizing radiation in addition to the 13 cases it was assigned to investigate.

Task force's goals

Faden said the panel's goals were to make public as many documents as possible on radiation experiments between 1944 and 1974; consider a range of remedies for those harmed or wronged and examine the current state of human radiation research.

The advisory panel was named after a spate of media reports of secret experiments on sometimes unknowing subjects including exposing prison inmates to X-rays and injecting mentally retarded boys at a state school with radioactive isotopes.

While many government-backed experiments appeared to have valid reasons, such as cancer research, some seemed to have dubious purposes, administration officials have said.

"What we now know is that in the late '40s and early '50s, at the highest levels of government, in the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission, there were active debates about whether this research ... should go forward," Faden said. She said the panel did not know if the debates were over legal or ethical issues.

The committee is to release a final report in April, a year after it formally started its investigation. The document released Friday was largely an outline of how it will approach its remaining work.

The panel has delved through thousands of once-classified documents released by the Energy Department, the Defense Department, Veterans Affairs, the CIA and other agencies that dealt with radiation and the people exposed to it through experiments or military maneuvers.

Veterans' testimony

It also has heard testimony from veterans exposed to radiation, inhabitants of Pacific islands where the military detonated test bombs, and people subjected to medical tests.

"We still have significant roadblocks," Faden said, citing problems with sifting through hundreds of thousands of documents scattered across the country and with getting classified documents released. Many records have been destroyed or lost, she said.

"I think that the key point is the continuing difficulties getting agency cooperation with the doc-

ument search process that is absolutely critical to what the committee needs to do," said Daryl Kimball, of Physicians for Social Responsibility. "The CIA probably the most egregious example."

The report said the CIA found no evidence that it was involved in human radiation experiments,

but the records show it conducted psychological tests and drug tests on people.

Kimball also said the investigation showed the government had set ethics standards for human experiments in the early days of the Cold War, but in many cases ignored them.

11-25
19

Radiation Tests Were Widespread

Top Officials Knew of Experiments, Panel Says

By Gary Lee

Washington Post Staff Writer

Radiation experiments sponsored by the federal government were conducted on more than 23,000 Americans in about 1,400 different projects in the 30-year period after World War II, according to a report released yesterday by an independent panel studying the issue. The figures suggest that the deliberate exposure of humans to radiation during the Cold War was far more widespread than previously believed.

The panel, appointed by the Clinton administration to investigate the experiments, also has found that discussions about the ethical implications of radiation tests took place as early as 1953,

and involved senior officials, including the secretary of defense. The panel has documented fully 400 government-backed biomedical experiments involving human exposure to radiation conducted between 1944 and 1975, and has received materials describing 1,000 other tests over the same period, the report said.

A 1986 congressional probe of federal radiation tests, commissioned by Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and until now considered the most authoritative account of radiation experiments, discussed only 31 separate experiments. In June, Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary revealed information about 48 additional experiments.

See RADIATION, A5, Col. 1

RADIATION, From A1

According to the picture painted in the panel's report and in an interview with the panel's chairman, government researchers carried out projects exposing thousands of U.S. military personnel and civilians to radioactive substances, in spite of ethical concerns that were raised in high-level government discussions.

"This suggests that experimentation was a much bigger deal than anyone knew," said Daryl Kimball, associate director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. "And that is going to make the panel's work all that much harder."

Cold War researchers conducted several hundred so-called intentional releases, in which radioactive sub-

stances were emitted into the environment, usually to test human responses and often without the knowledge of those exposed, the panel's report said.

Federal officials had previously acknowledged overseeing only 13 such releases, including the controversial 1949 Green Run incident, in which significant amounts of radioactive iodine and other elements were emitted in eastern Washington state, where they drifted downwind and exposed people in surrounding communities.

While the Markey commission identified only 700 participants in federally sponsored radiation studies, at least 23,000 people now have been identified as taking part in the tests sponsored by the forerunners of the Health and Human Services Department, the

Veterans Affairs Department and other departments, according to Ruth Faden, a Johns Hopkins University ethicist who chairs the panel.

That figure does not include those involved in tests sponsored by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy, Faden said. She added that "probably many thousands" of participants will be added to the total after individuals who participated in tests conducted by those departments are counted. Faden also emphasized that some of the experiments provided the participants with medical benefits but added that the number who benefited is not yet known.

Earlier this year, after O'Leary and the Albuquerque Tribune newspaper brought the extensive use of humans in federal radiation tests to national

attention, President Clinton appointed an interagency task force to explore the implications of the issue.

The task force in turn appointed the panel. Officially called the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, it is made up of 14 leading ethicists, medical researchers and legal experts.

Among the material already reviewed by the panel are documents suggesting that discussions took place about the radiation experiments among senior Truman administration officials. In 1953, then-Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and the secretaries of the Army and Navy joined in the discussion, according to documents in the panel's files.

"Until now, we were under the impression that debate about the is-

THE WASHINGTON POST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1994

P A 2

sue only took place among lower-level officials and laboratory researchers," Faden said.

Despite the discussions, which touched on such questions as informed consent and how much patients should be told about the tests, there are indications that the reservations of senior officials about the radiation issue were not relayed to laboratory researchers who conducted the tests.

Over the next six months, Faden said, the panel will address key questions about the experiments, such as the extent to which researchers gained the consent of participants, how participants were chosen and whether participants should be compensated for damages they suffered. The panel's final report is due in April.

The panel is supposed to collect data

about experiments sponsored across the federal government, but it has not received full cooperation from all agencies, according to the report.

For example, the departments of Defense and Energy have refused to hand over documents relating to the intentional releases. Officials from the agencies have refused to declassify the documents, citing national security concerns, Faden said.

Central Intelligence Agency officials have said the agency has not involved in radiation tests and have refused to give any files to the panel. But the panel has found that CIA officials were at least involved in discussions about the tests in the early 1950s.

The agencies' refusal to cooperate already are causing "roadblocks" for the committee, Faden said.

Date: 10/22/94 Time: 08:45

Secrecy Deters Panel's Study of Radiation Tests

WASHINGTON (AP) Members of a presidential panel combing through thousands of documents on radiation experiments say their work is hampered by the fact that the government refuses to declassify many files.

Dr. Ruth Faden, head of President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, said Friday that defense officials were erecting "significant roadblocks" because of the classified files on radiation releases at weapons facilities during the Cold War years.

She noted that many files related to human radiation experiments have been declassified and the committee has had access to thousands of previously declassified documents. But major gaps remain because of files that have been destroyed, cannot be found or remain classified.

In an interim report, the advisory committee said there may have been more than 1,000 experiments involving human subjects as well as hundreds of other instances in which radiation was intentionally released as part of the government's nuclear weapons program.

Some of the experiments involved numerous subjects.

In many of the cases only fragmentary information has been found or made available, Faden, a professor of bio-ethics at Johns Hopkins University, said at a news conference. "In a lot of cases, we may never have the kind of detailed information for drawing moral evaluations," she said.

The committee said its review has found hundreds of intentional releases of radiation many more than previously suspected as part of the country's nuclear programs between the 1940s and 1975.

Daniel Guttman, the panel's executive director, said some of the intentional releases involved tests on nuclear rockets, high explosives, nuclear aircraft technology and nuclear reactors at which accident scenarios were simulated at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

While the panel was advised previously of only 13 intentional releases of ionizing radiation into the environment "the committee is now aware of hundreds of additional intentional releases," the interim report said.

The radiation releases occurred over many years at several weapons facilities. Included were those at Hanford, Wash.; Los Alamos, N.M.; the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas; Oak Ridge, Tenn.; plants near Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Ky.; the DOE weapons laboratory in Idaho and the Nevada nuclear test site, Guttman said.

The report said four releases had been cited at Los Alamos but that DOE documents now show "the number of such tests approximate 250." And it said that while eight radiation warfare experiments were acknowledged previously, recently uncovered documents show "the number is at least 53."

John Gustafson, a spokesman for the Los Alamos lab, said the existence of 254 implosion tests conducted at the facility between 1944 and 1961 has been publicly known for years, although the results of the tests remain secret.

Faden, the committee chairwoman, said that of the 400 biomedical experiments involving human subjects documented so far, it is clear some may have had therapeutic goals while others were aimed simply at learning more about radiation's effects on the body. In many

cases, it remains unclear whether the subjects had been given proper consent in many of the experiments, she said.

But Faden said it is clear from documents uncovered so far that even in the 1940s and early '50s there was active debate ``at the highest reaches of government'' about human radiation experiments and that while there were policies in place, ``in some instances these policies were not followed.''

APNP-10-22-94 0844EDT

Panel Says U.S. May Have Done Thousands of Human Radiation Experiments

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 — The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments said today that the number of radiation experiments conducted by the Government and the military from 1944 to 1974 was likely to be "in the thousands," many times more than previously believed.

The committee issued an interim report halfway through its projected one-year term. The panel was charged by President Clinton with searching out information on human

radiation experiments in the United States, determining their ethical validity and suggesting whether the victims should be compensated.

The experiments included injection of radioactive plutonium into people's bodies, marching troops onto ground zero after a nuclear explosion and releasing radioactive substances into the air to track their progress or its effects.

The chairwoman of the committee, Dr. Ruth Faden, said that as an example of what the committee had found, the number of experiments in which radiation was deliberately released into the environment, be-

Slowly prying out the truth of cold-war exercises.

lieved by scholars to be 13 before the committee began its work, now appeared to be several hundred releases in dozens of experiments.

More than 400 experiments, some involving multiple instances of using radiation in human experimentation,

have been officially logged by the committee. Dr. Faden said the number would probably rise to the thousands before the committee was finished with its work.

But Dr. Faden said the Defense Department had refused to declassify all the material on experiments involving the deliberate release of radiation, saying they were still matters of national security.

"In general, the agencies have been very cooperative," she said, "but we must now work out how to deal with the question of keeping some of these documents classified. We would like to make everything

public."

The committee has accumulated about 250,000 papers, filling more than 180 cubic feet. Members of its staff estimate that more than 1,000 cubic feet of documents on human radiation experiments are scattered across agencies of the Government. The committee hopes to get a representative sample.

Now that documents are steadily coming in, Dr. Faden said, the committee will begin the second phase of its work: evaluating the ethics of the experiments and how they compare with current practices. The final report is due next summer.

Date: 10/21/94 Time: 16:54

Panel Finds More Human Experiments, Radiation

WASHINGTON (AP) Intentional radiation releases and human experimentation appear to have been frequent and widespread in the government's Cold War nuclear programs, a presidential panel said Friday.

In an interim report, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments said it had documented at least 400 cases of human medical experiments involving radiation and had "fragmentary indications" of 1,000 more.

It also said it found that hundreds of intentional releases of radiation many more than previously suspected had occurred as part of the country's nuclear programs between the 1940s and 1975. It was not clear from the data provided how many of those releases involved exposure of the general public or what levels of exposure were involved.

But Dr. Ruth Faden, the committee's chairwoman, said detailed information about many of the cases may never be known because of scant or missing documents. She also complained of "significant roadblocks" still being erected by government officials who are refusing to declassify information about many of the radiation releases involving nuclear weapons programs.

"In a lot of cases we may never have the kind of detailed information for drawing moral evaluations," said Faden, a professor of bio-ethics at Johns Hopkins University.

The advisory committee, charged by President Clinton last December to examine the extent of human radiation testing during the Cold War, will issue its final findings in six months, including recommendations on whether the government should compensate victims of improper or unethical actions.

Fader said that of the 400 biomedical experiments involving human subjects documented so far, it is clear some may have had therapeutic goals while others were aimed simply at learning more about radiation's effects on the body something that was largely a mystery early in the nuclear age.

In many cases it remains unclear whether the subjects had been given proper consent in many of the experiments, she said.

But Faden said it is clear from documents uncovered so far that even in the 1940s and early '50s there was active debate "at the highest reaches of government" about whether humans should be used to learn more about radiation.

There were clear policies in place to safeguard subjects "but in some instances these policies were not followed," Faden said at a news conference.

She and Daniel Guttman, the panel's executive director, said while there are gaps in the information about medical experiments, even less information has been made available about the intentional releases of radiation, largely stemming from the governments nuclear weapons programs.

A General Accounting Office report last year cited only 13 such releases, but the advisory panel has learned of at least several hundred such cases and there likely are even more, said Guttman. He said the Defense Department continues to argue that details about the releases should remain classified for national security.

The radiation releases largely were related to weapons production and testing at weapons plants around the country including at Hanford, Wash.; Los Alamos, N.M.; the Pantex facility

in Texas; Oak Ridge, Tenn.; plants near Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Ky.; at the DOE weapons laboratory in Idaho; and at the Nevada nuclear test site, Guttman said.

The advisory committee said that previously only four intentional radiation releases had been acknowledged at the Los Alamos facility, where implosion tests involving radioactive materials were conducted for many years. Now DOE documents show "the number of such tests approximate 250," said the report. It said there were eight radiation warfare experiments previously acknowledged, although "the number is at least 53" according to recently uncovered documents.

Some of the intentional releases involved tests on nuclear rockets, high explosives, nuclear aircraft technology, and nuclear reactors at which accident scenarios were simulated at the DOE's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, said the report.

APNP-10-21-94 1653EDT



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS
1726 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

October 21, 1994

Contact: Stephen Klaidman
202/254-3034

Advisory Committee Releases Interim Report

The Presidentially appointed Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments released today its interim report on the ethical and scientific criteria applicable to human radiation experiments carried out or sponsored by the United States Government.

Highlights of the interim report:

Openness: In response to the President's request that the Federal Government open a substantial portion of its Cold War files, the Committee and agency search teams have retrieved important and, in some cases, previously secret records collections that will provide a new basis for understanding our past and present. In doing so, the Committee is producing a road map that should serve as a guide for the public in years to come.

Piecing together experiments. The Committee's experiment database currently contains hundreds of pre-1975 biomedical experiments, and the Committee possesses at least fragmentary indications of over a thousand more experiments. In addition to the 13 intentional releases of radioactive materials identified in the Committee's Charter, the Committee is now aware of hundreds of additional intentional releases.

Rewriting the history of Federal ethics policy and practice: The Committee has discovered a mid-century debate, often held in secret and involving the highest levels of government agencies, about the need for human experimentation involving radiation, and about the policies to govern the experiments.

Relevance to today's experimentation. The government's debate over ethical policies and practices has major implications for today's world of science and medicine. Among these issues are the relation between policies and practice in the conduct of experimentation, the boundaries of what is experimental and what is standard medical practice, and whether events of 40 or 50 years ago could be replicated today by government agencies, in secret or otherwise.

Challenges: Search efforts are necessarily time consuming and uncertain; data on many experiments will likely remain fragmentary; it appears that many important collections have been lost or destroyed; a great number of relevant collections contain classified data; and the declassification process may be a substantial bottleneck.



PAGE 2

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1994
United Press International

October 21, 1994, Friday, BC cycle -16:58 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington News

LENGTH: 1455 words

HEADLINE: Uncovering extent of radiation experiments

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Oct. 21

BODY:

After six months of work, members of a federal advisory panel charged with investigating the recently exposed series of government radiation experiments said Friday the enormous extent of the experiments is coming into focus. While the exact number of the radiation experiments remains unknown, the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments' interim report released at a news conference describes a twisted trail that leads through six federal agencies, millions of cubic feet of records and numerous personal accounts from test subjects. Thus far, the committee has amassed information on 400 biomedical tests -- with leads on 1,000 more -- and hundreds of intentional releases of radiation before 1975 intended to study the effect of radiation exposure on humans. However, committee chair Dr. Ruth Faden is quick to point out that it is not yet clear which of these were done in an unethical way and which may have been legitimate experiments with fully informed consent. "The number will probably be in the thousands by the time we finish," Faden said. "But we still can't characterize what proportion of these experiments might raise ethical concerns." The committee, with a budget of \$4.5 million, plans to finish the work in six months. While most agencies have been responsive to the panel's request for information, the work in some areas has been made difficult by records still considered as classified information, Faden said. The committee includes experts in bioethics, radiation oncology and biology, history of science and medicine, epidemiology, nuclear medicine and law as well as a citizen representative.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: October 21, 1994

PSR®



PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY®

1101 Fourteenth Street Northwest Suite 700 Washington DC 20005

telephone (202) 898-0150 facsimile (202) 898-0172

NEWS ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 20, 1994, 4:15 p.m.

CONTACT: Holly Richardson or Daryl Kimball
(202) 898-0150

MEDIA ADVISORY

Experts Available for Comment on Government-Sponsored Human Radiation Experimentation Program

WHAT: The federally-appointed Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments will release the "interim" report on their investigation at 1:00 p.m. on October 21 in the State Room of the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC.

WHO: The following scientific, medical, and policy experts are available for background information on the human radiation experimentation program, comment on the Advisory Committee's report, the Committee's progress to date, and on the future challenges facing the investigation.

H. Jack Geiger, M.D. -- Member of the HHS National Advisory Committee for Energy-Related Epidemiologic Research. Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund. Co-chair of PSR's Physicians Task Force on the Health Risks of Nuclear Weapons Production; co-author of *Dead Reckoning: A Critical Review of the Department of Energy's Epidemiologic Research*, published by PSR in May 1992. Logan Professor of Community Medicine at the City University of New York Medical School. (w) 212/650-6860, (h) 718/855-5503.

David Rush, M.D. -- Co-author of *Dead Reckoning*, published by PSR in May 1992. Member of PSR's Physicians Task Force on the Health Risks of Nuclear Weapons Production. Head of the Epidemiology Program, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, Tufts University. (w) 617/556-3320, (h) 617/547-8467, Friday 508/349-3544

Christine Cassel, M.D. -- Chief of Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine and a specialist in medical ethics, geriatrics, and health care policy. Dr. Cassel testified before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on the ethical implications of the radiation experiments and co-authored an article, "U.S. Government Radiation Research on Humans: 1945-1975," which appeared in the March issue of *Medicine and Global Survival*. (w) 312/702-3045

- MORE -

PSR RADIATION HEALTH EXPERTS

Page 2

October 20, 1994

Herbert L. Abrams, M.D. -- Professor of Radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine and Member-in-Residence of the Stanford Center for International Security and Arms Control. Dr. Abrams' articles on the medical consequences of nuclear war have appeared in numerous books and journals including *The Medical Implications of Nuclear War*, published by the National Academy of Sciences in 1986, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Thursday - 617/262-9600, Friday - 508-645-9595

Richard Belsey, M.D. -- Professor of Clinical Pathology, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland; Member of the Oregon DOE Citizen's Advisory Committee on Hanford, the Oregon Hanford Advisory Committee to the Oregon Hanford Waste Board, and advisor to the Hanford Health Information Network. (w) 503/293-0225

Daryl G. Kimball -- Associate Director for Policy, Physicians for Social Responsibility. Expert on nuclear weapons production policy issues. Researcher and editor of *Dead Reckoning* and co-author of article, "U.S. Government Radiation Research on Humans: 1945-1975," which appeared in the March issue of *Medicine and Global Survival*. (w) 202-898-0150

Copies of the article, "U.S. Government Radiation Research on Humans: 1945-1975," PSR's report on DOE's program of health research on nuclear weapons workers, *Dead Reckoning*, and PSR's quarterly *Health Research Bulletin* are also available by contacting PSR at 202/898-0150.

-30-

Physicians for Social Responsibility is a national organization of over 20,000 health professionals and supporters working to eliminate nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, address the adverse health consequences of environmental degradation, and reduce violence and its causes. PSR is the U.S. affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

Radiation Subjects' Stories Tumble Out

Federal panel brings inquiry to S.F.

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Staff Writer

Israel Torres knelt in a trench one mile from ground zero during a 1957 atomic bomb test in Nevada. Richard Harley crouched on the deck of an escort carrier 30 miles from a 1953 thermonuclear test at the Eniwetok atoll. Emma Craft was one of 829 pregnant women fed radioactive iron beginning in 1945 at a Tennessee hospital.

Their stories, recounted in a public hearing in San Francisco yesterday, are part of the official record being assembled by the President's Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, the federal panel making a detailed inquiry into tests conducted on people over a 30-year period at scores of

U.S. sites around the world.

The panel was appointed by President Clinton to determine the government's responsibility for harm to human subjects as a result of experiments with radiation. Its first meeting outside Washington underscored the daunting task the committee faces in piecing together the scattered and perhaps most secretive segments of the Atomic Age.

Although many of the victims have detailed memories of their involvement in experiments, in many cases there is no written record of the tests; others are still classified by the federal government for national security reasons. Incredibly, it appears that in some cases the children of military per-

TESTS: Page A15 Col. 1

10/13/94
San Francisco Chronicle

TESTS: Federal Panel Hears Stories From

From Page 1

sonnel were volunteered by their parents for inclusion in experiments that were neither defined nor concluded.

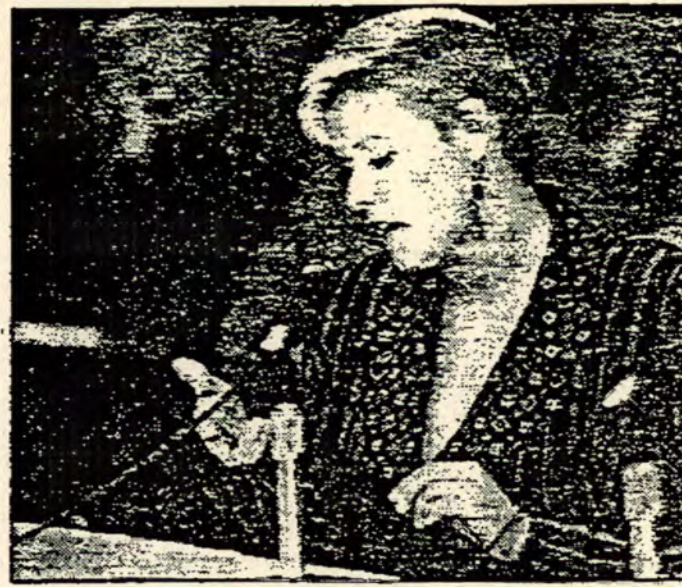
"I just want to get some answers, and that's why I'm here today," Darcy Thrall told the panel at the San Francisco Press Club yesterday. "I want to know what's been done to me and what I can expect to happen ... whether I have five years or 35 years (to live)."

Thrall's father worked at the Hanford weapons plant in southeastern Washington state, the country's main plutonium production site. She told the panel she was pulled out of her second-grade class in Richland, told to drink some liquids and then monitored periodically by doctors for the next six years. She wore government-issue dog tags for years, but to this day she does not know the reason for the experiment or whether it was responsible for the numerous health problems she has suffered, including hypothyroidism and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Panel members believe that as many as 600 tests may have been conducted on U.S. citizens.

"At our core, we are an ethics committee," said panel chairwoman Dr. Ruth Faden, a bioethicist at Johns Hopkins University. "We are very keen to hear from everyone who thinks they have something to help us with our charge, including the ethics of the work being conducted, whether any government agencies were responsible, and to come up with remedies and recommendations to address this problem."

The panel includes radiation experts, public health specialists, an epidemiologist, a historian and



BY LEA SUZUKI

Darcy Thrall read to a government panel from the dog tag that was given as a 7-year-old participant in a radiation experiment.

a lawyer. Members have searched through hundreds of thousands of documents related to human experiments and have found records from several military committees that discussed the need for radiation data — and secrecy — beginning in the late 1940s.

In 1949, two years after the Atomic Energy Commission established a medical division to consider human and animal experiments, 18 patients were injected with plutonium to help track its path through the human body. The patients were the subject of a series of stories published by the Albuquerque Tribune last year that ultimately led Clinton to establish the committee.

The secret "Atomic Medicine Division" of the Veterans Administration may have been involved in exposing U.S. service personnel to radiation during post-World War II atomic-bomb tests and assessing

the effects. Yesterday, men involved in those tests testified before the panel.

Torres, then a 23-year-old rifle platoon sergeant, was ordered to lead a battalion into Yucca Flats, Nev., in 1952. They were told to kneel during the detonation of a weapon named "Hood." He said the shock wave from the test in the trench began to cut the wind nearly sucked into the open desert.

"The light was so bright I had to cover my eyes with my hands and I immediately got a burn from the heat," said Torres, who lives in a small central valley in California. "Then the equipment started shaking and I was placed in a van and taken to a hospital" for a lengthy and painful treatment.

"All I ask of you is

Radiation Subjects



UPI/THE CHRONICLE

tags she
periment

y, two of the
se tests testi-

-year-old Ma-
was ordered
to a trench at
1967, where
ei during the
eapon, nick-
id that when
the blast hit,
collapse and
ted them out

bright I had
th my hands,
got blisters
Torres, who
al coast town
he trucks and
showing up.
van and tak-
a number of
ests.

is the truth."

Torres said. "All I ask is for justice for any of the people who died due to this stupidity."

Harley, who was aboard a U.S. naval ship assigned to the Marshall Islands, said he was part of a group of men told to squat on deck during one of the 66 known nuclear tests conducted near the Marshall Islands from 1947 to 1958.

"We were told that any personnel who were to be witnesses should bend down with their backs to ground zero and to remain in that position," he said. "The brightness from the blast was so great that I could actually see the shadow of my bone through my arm."

The very existence of the atomic-medicine unit had been kept secret because of Veterans Administration concerns about disability claims. Numerous victims, and spouses of the victims, have said that their claims have continued to be rejected by the government.

Craft's story, as relayed by her lawyer, Don Arbitlit of San Francisco, is the subject of a class-action lawsuit filed against Vanderbilt Hospital in Tennessee and the federal government. She was one of 829 pregnant women given radioactive iron during a two-year study.

It was only in the 1969 publication of a follow-up study in an obscure medical journal that Craft discovered she was one of those included in the study. The story detailed the death of her 11-year-old daughter, who died of a rare form of cancer.

"Her daughter suffered a slow, painful, gruesome death, and Emma always believed it was due to an act of God," Arbitlit said. "It wasn't until much after that she believed that this tragedy was due to intervention by humankind."