

1/4/64

# WASHINGTON



# NEWS

**Congress Okays Money for Mental Health . . .**

**More Funds for Air Pollution Research . . .**

**Kennedy Autopsy Results Reported . . .**

**AMA Statement on Research . . .**

**Yellow Fever Program . . .**

**Seat Belt Standard Law . . .**

**Drug Co. Denies Withholding Information . . .**

**Miscellany . . .**

**Mental Bill Funds Clear Congress.**—Congress has approved the immediate spending of \$41.8 million as a start on the Administration's program to combat mental illness and retardation.

The supplemental appropriations measure would finance the first year of a previously authorized seven-year, \$784 million mental health program.

In a special message to Congress last January, the late President Kennedy called for a "bold new approach" to the twin problems of retardation in children and mental illness in general. He said the nation had too long neglected those suffering from the afflictions.

One of the two authorizing measures comprising the program provided for appropriations of up to \$329 million over a four-year period for research and treatment of both mental illness and retardation. Its key feature calls for construction of community mental health treatment centers in which individuals could receive outpatient as well as inpatient care.

The second authorizing bill was a \$355 million measure—spread over seven years—designed to prevent mental retardation through improved maternal and infant care and research.

**Air Pollution Control Law.**—President Johnson signed into law a "clean air" bill designed to channel \$95 million in federal funds into a four-year program to fight air pollution.

The legislation authorizes the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to conduct research into the problem of air pollution.

It also would permit federal aid to states and communities which are fighting air pollution.

In signing the measure, Johnson said it would combat a "serious and growing" hazard. He said an estimated 6,000 US communities need the type of assistance provided by the bill.

States will retain the primary responsibility for controlling and reducing pollution except in those cases where pollution from one source—such as a concentration of factories—affects more than one state.

In such cases federal authorities may seek relief in court if a voluntary solution is unsuccessful.

The federal aid program involves grants on a matching basis of one state dollar for every two federal dollars. Regional grants are based on matching of three-quarters federal, one-quarter state.

The bill signed is an authorization measure and sets the ceiling on how much money can be spent. Actual appropriations will come later.

**Kennedy Shot Twice in Back.**—President Kennedy was shot twice from the rear by the assassin who struck him down in Dallas. This unofficial finding by a team of pathologists who performed an autopsy on the President's body cleared up confusion over whether Kennedy was shot once or twice and whether both bullets came from the same direction.

The autopsy was performed at Bethesda Naval Hospital on the night of Nov 22 after Kennedy's body was brought back to Washington from Dallas.

The first bullet reportedly hit Kennedy in the upper part of the right back shoulder. The bullet did not go through his body and was recovered during the autopsy.

The second bullet hit Texas Gov. John B. Connally who was riding in the President's car. The third bullet hit Kennedy in the back of the right side of the head. A small fragment of this bullet also angled down and passed out through Kennedy's throat, it was reported.

Kennedy might have survived the first bullet, which may have ricocheted off the limousine before striking him, according to reports.

The White House, the Naval Hospital, the Justice Department, and the Secret Service have declined to make any information public about the autopsy.

The autopsy report now is in the hands of the Secret Service. It was expected that it would be included in a report which the Treasury Department (which controls the Secret Service) will send to the special commission created to investigate the assassination. The commission is headed by Chief Justice Warren.

Physicians who worked on the President in Dallas never knew about the shoulder wound caused by the first bullet because the Chief Executive was on his back from the time he was brought to the hospital until the body was removed.

**AMA on Medical Research.**—The American Medical Association told the Select House Committee to Investigate Research Programs that federal medical research spending should not overlook quality in place of quantity.