

Olsons will continue suit; many details remain unclear

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A member of the Rockefeller Commission which investigated domestic activities of the Central Intelligence Agency warns not to accept the commission's report as the last word on potentially illegal CIA actions within the U.S.

And at the same time, testimony given to the News-Post by a former colleague of Frank Olson raises new questions about the circumstances around how Olson came to be an unsuspecting subject of a CIA experiment with LSD.

In light of these and other remaining questions, the family of Frank Olson has reaffirmed their intention to carry through with their law suit against the CIA in hopes of receiving full disclosure of all details of Olson's death 22 years ago of which the only eye witness was a former CIA agent.

The Olson family received a personal apology from President Ford on Monday

at the White House and some news accounts reported incorrectly that the family was considering dropping their law suit because of the President's action and "sincere sympathy."

A former colleague of Olson's, present at the retreat meeting where Olson and three other scientists were reportedly given LSD in after dinner drinks 22 years ago, has said he did not believe the CIA employe who served the drinks was acting on orders from superiors. *

The colleague, who asked that his identity be withheld, said the meeting began with a discussion and an agreement in principle to experiment with LSD and other psychochemicals on unsuspecting subjects.

The colleague stressed that, to his knowledge, none of the scientists present consented to take the drug.

"I recall pretty clearly that evening's LSD encounter was not a part of any research. I remember it as a serious mistake in judgment," the colleague said.

The colleague said he had not been contacted by either the CIA or the Rockefeller Commission, as other colleagues present that evening have said. He also said he always thought Olson's widow knew the complete truth about her husband's death until the recent news accounts were published.

In questioning members of the Rockefeller Commission as to why Olson's colleagues were not interviewed about the incident, staff member Peter Clapper said: "We did not have the personnel or the time to go into every area that specifically. If we did we'd still be investigating."

Clapper said he believed that if the news media continues to probe general areas of the commission's report many more details and specific incidents will come to light.

Media investigations following the release of the Rockefeller report have revealed widespread Army, University

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and CIA hallucinogenic drug experiments on thousands of American citizens and military men, many of which were unsuspecting subjects.

Another disclosure reported by the Associated Press said the Justice Department and the CIA had an agreement whereby arrested CIA agents would not be prosecuted for any crimes they committed for fear they might reveal agency secrets.

The Rockefeller report, ordered by

President Ford and completed in five months, failed to mention these and, according to Clapper, some other possible disclosures.

"Our effort was to ascertain general information in many areas," Clapper said. "In that, we succeeded but like the allegations of CIA assassinations, we couldn't go into every detail.

"We spent many, many hours at the CIA headquarters and we were allowed

to see everything we asked for — even some things unrelated to our report," Clapper added.