

Death of Frank Olson

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Shortly, the case of the LSD-related death of biochemist Frank R. Olson in 1953, will be right where it should be in 1975 — in the courts.

Only in U.S. District Court with its power of subpoena will all (or hopefully all) the pertinent facts surrounding the death of Dr. Olson, be aired. In filing a suit against the Central Intelligence Agency, Mrs. Alice W. Olson, his widow, of Old Braddock, his daughter Lisa and sons Eric and Nils will set out on a long perhaps rough road to the truth.

No government agency or bureau, not even the Presidency as Richard M. Nixon would learn in 1974, is above the law and the CIA must be held accountable for its actions. If those actions in any way caused or led to the death of the Olson Family's breadwinner in 1953, the agency and its leadership must be held accountable. But no matter the outcome, the family has a right to the truth. The American people have a Constitutionally-given right to the truth.

The revelation and possibility of LSD experimentation by the CIA leading to the death of Olson is far and away the most

shocking of the recent disclosures of CIA in-country covert operations. Questions surrounding Olson's death could fill a Congressional-sized report.

But some questions are basic and most have answers. Why was Olson taken from sessions with a CIA-approved psychiatrist to a 10th floor room in a New York hotel? At what level of CIA leadership was the LSD experiment authorized and why on at least five high-level scientists at the Detrick facility?

Why were CIA documents regarding the experiment destroyed in 1973? Why didn't the Rockefeller Commission inform the Olson Family that it had been Frank R. Olson who died after taking CIA-induced lysergic acid diethylamide?

The Frank R. Olson Family plans to sue the CIA for several millions of dollars. The amount is academic. Millions of dollars do not a father make. Twenty-two years without the friendship, guidance and love of a father and husband is a personal tragedy. But if that father's and husband's death was caused by a United States Government agency, it's a national disgrace.