

# Army Seeking Behavior Controls

By Jack Anderson

Experiments to control human behavior with science fiction devices are being conducted secretly at the Army's high-fenced Harry Diamond Laboratories in Washington.

To perfect the electronic behavior machines, Army scientists are spending \$50,000 this year and asking \$200,000 over the next two years. Ultimately, human guinea pigs will be used to test the devices.

Although a classified memorandum in our hands specifies the tests are for riot and civil disturbance control, the memo admits the general purpose is "short-time-span control of human behavior."

The control will be exercised through a devilish complex of flickering, steady and unseen light rays, audible sounds and other tones too high for the human ear to hear.

The main problem, the memo states, is that the "novel and unique devices/systems must be constructed so they will "cause no permanent damage to target personnel" and to innocent bystanders.

With this humanitarian thought recorded, the memo goes on to summarize the "ultrasonics, audible aversive stimuli, unique communications techniques and methods of speech interruption" which make up the Army's "physio-

logical/psychological studies."

## Control Devices

Translated into plain English, the technical memorandum envisions such devices as these:

- Flickering light of varying intensity which can throw off the normal electric rhythms of the brain. This leads to confusion and can even break down the brain's ability to control the body.

- Sound outside the human hearing range which can cripple a person's ability to function. Audible sound, some of it so loud as to cause unendurable pain, can have the same general effect.

- Electronic sound devices which can interrupt, distort or mask speeches by troublemakers at demonstrations.

While the Army memo complains that "the present state of development of sound and light devices is not adequate to achieve the desired objective," it notes hopefully that the potential workability of at least "two systems has been shown."

When we contacted the Army to find out whether the tests were leading to a 1984 world of thought control, a spokesman pooh-poohed the possibility.

"This program is so limited," he insisted. "Why, it's just to see what the hell it takes to control a crowd as painlessly as possible. We

think there may be a better way than billy clubs and pistols."

## Footnotes

**Mao's Women**—The women around China's supreme ruler, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, apparently are rising in power, Senate leaders Mike Mansfield, (D-Mont.) and Hugh Scott, (R-Pa.) reported to President Nixon after their recent China visit that Madame Mao, the chairman's wife, seemed to wield great political clout. Previously, she had been reported on the downslide after Premier Chou En-Lai's triumph over the militant wing of the party. But Mansfield and Scott noted that Chou made a point of consulting Madame Mao. It also appears that the political fortunes of Mao's niece, Wang Hai-jung, are also on the rise. An intelligence report reveals that she had accumulated much more political weight than her official title suggests. She is an assistant foreign minister.

**Smokey's Success**—Smokey the Bear, the firefighting figure who began 20 years ago in dungarees and a weather-beaten hat, now can afford Brooks Brothers suits. The famous bear earns more than \$200,000 a year in royalty payments for his creators, the Agriculture Department, which has sold 40 Smokey the Bear commercial licenses. To its credit, the government has

taken pains not to allow Smokey's puritanical image to be abused.

**Free Maintenance**—Wealthy Texas cattle rancher Wilson Edwards sends his antique airplanes to Webb Air Force Base for free maintenance. Only last week, Air Force employees spent more than 300 hours painting, polishing and repairing a vintage British Spitfire for the rich rancher. At least five World War II planes have been refurbished in the past few years for Edwards' antique collection. Wing Commander Malcolm Ryan justified this expenditure of the taxpayers' money because Edwards' "historic relics" are displayed at local celebrations to boost "the morale and esprit of the troops."

**Talent Search**—Joe Blatchford, the boy wonder who ran the Peace Corps for a while and now heads the new ACTION agency, has hired a new Director of Public Affairs. He is Ronald Gervas, who will start his government career earning \$36,000 a year. Blatchford sent around a memorandum announcing Gervas had been selected "following a six-month nationwide recruitment and talent search." Presumably, it is just a coincidence that Gervas hails from the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency in Los Angeles where White House aides H. R. Haldeman and Ron Ziegler formerly worked.