

Ex-Medical Director Cites Bad Publicity

Probe Told Inmates Pressured on Experiments

By Bill Richards

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Four ex-prison inmates and a former director of a prison medical research program told a House subcommittee yesterday that prisoners are under subtle but heavy pressure to take part in medical experiments and that the experiments should be ended.

"We can do better outside the prisons than we have done inside them," said Dr. John D. Arnold, a director of medical research on prisoners since 1946 and medical director of the Quiney Research Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Arnold said prison research programs on such diseases as cholera and malaria have outgrown their usefulness because bad publicity surrounded them in recent years has given all medical research in these areas a bad name.

Medical research on prison subjects has dropped off sharply in recent years, said Arnold, and the remaining research exposes legitimate medical concerns to bad publicity.

Regulating factors such as "informed consent," which are required during experimentation on civilian populations outside prisons, sometimes are lacking during programs inside the prison walls because of pressures on prisoners to participate, he said.

Gary Sabatini, a former inmate at the Maryland House of Correction in Jessup, told



GARY SABATINI... criticizes program

The House subcommittee on courts, civil liberties and the administration of justice that he was one of those who took part in experiments because of monetary pressure.

Sabatini, who was released from the House of Correction in June, said he allowed himself to be given malaria, typhoid fever and shigella while he was in prison to raise money to fight for an appeal of his conviction.

In addition to contracting the diseases, he said, he also developed infectious hepatitis and suffered stomach ailments in prison. He said he believed the ailments stemmed from the experiments. Other pressures are also

prevalent in prisons such as the promise of better living conditions in areas where experiments are conducted, Sabatini said.

Such luxuries as air-conditioning, adequate heating in winter, television and extra money are all used to lure search programs, he said. In addition, he said most prisoners believe that they will get extra time off their sentences if they take part in the experiments.

Sabatini is one of nine prisoners from the Maryland House of Correction who have filed suit for \$125 million against the state and federal government seeking damages because of their part in the program.

Richard Alexander, who look part in federal medical research programs at the Ad-diction Research Center in Lexington, Ky., told the House panel that he chose to take part because of amenities at the center that would not be available at the U. S. prison at Leavenworth, Kan., where he was scheduled to serve time for a parole violation.

"I figured they weren't going to use anything on me that I hadn't already used on myself," he told the subcommittee.

Alexander said he was given drugs that produced prolonged hallucinations and aggression that lasted for more than a night and a day. He said doctors at the program injected him and other prisoners with an elephant tranquilizer and morphine. He said that although they were promised they could leave the program whenever search

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Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.), a sponsor of the bill to end prisoner research and cut off U.S. funds to state prisons doing similar research said Maryland is one of just nine states now doing such re-