

# Committee testimony reveals horror of CIA drug experiments

By ROLLIE ATKINSON  
Staff Writer

There is no comfort in company to Mrs. Alice Olson.

As I listened to the others testify of their horrible experiences as victims of these drug experiments it only served to more vividly and realistically bring out the terror and confusion Frank must have gone through in those last few days," she said.

The Olsons were called before a Senate committee Wednesday along with other families and subjects who had experienced the tragic effects of Army and Central Intelligence Agency drug tests that had gone awry.

Listening to the accounts of near suicide, mental breakdowns, an overdose induced epilepsy and recurring flashbacks, Mrs. Olson said, proved how unaware she had been in knowing what her husband was suffering through.

"There I was trying to talk rationally with him having no idea I was talking to a very depressed person," she said. "His suffering and agony must have been pure hell."

Former Lt. Col. Vincent Ruwet, of Frederick, a friend and superior of Frank Olson's who was also covertly given a dose of LSD by the CIA, appeared before the Senators to add his testimony to others.

"It was the most frightening experience I had ever had or ever hope to have," he told the panel. He went on to explain that no prior warning had been given.

"They notified us that the drink we had placed with LSD while we were under the influence," he said.

Maryland Senator Charles McCall Mathias was one of the Senators listening to the testimony Wednesday.

"Senator Mathias sought us out and asked if we were receiving all the information promised to us by the

President," said Mrs. Olson. Mathias later said in an official statement that he was outraged and disgraced by the horrors told concerning the drug experiments.

According to the other witnesses, however, that this secret drug testing was systematically done by a number of government agencies. Eric Olson recounted Thursday night.

I found Jordan's and Ray's two other witnesses stories very striking. I served to give us a more vivid sense of what my father went through.

Former Army Col. William Jordan testified that he developed epilepsy and suffered serious and disturbing flashbacks as a result of receiving a dose of LSD in an Army experiment in 1960.

One of his flashbacks, he said, occurred while he was serving in Vietnam in the middle of a war zone when he lost his memory and couldn't recall the events of three days, while he was on patrol.

Mrs. Mary Ray of Edgewater, Md.

testimony, she had been Olson's subject and research assistant in the drug experiments. In the state of terror after receiving the drug, she said.

Ray's account of an LSD trip was just terrifying," said Mrs. Olson. "I had never heard about a trip before."

The Senate hearings chaired by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy are looking into possible regulations by the Federal Drug Administration to oversee such experiments on human subjects.

Another man who was experimented with at Maryland's Edgewood Arsenal testified that he could not remember the incident.

However, his wife testified that the man "took a gun and threatened to shoot himself."