

# Report on CIA Called

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Several staff members of the Rockefeller commission have indicated that the commission felt itself horribly rushed on many phases of its investigation into illegal activities of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Their views came to light during questioning about discrepancies between what the commission had to say about the CIA's testing of LSD on unsuspecting subjects, and what some of those involved have had to say in the five weeks since the report was made public.

"There was no effort to whitewash in the Rockefeller report, but it was a hurry-hurry job," said Peter Clapper, who handled the commission's public relations.

Clapper said that if the news media continue to probe into CIA activities, more discrepancies will probably come to light.

"But," he said, "I think it's true that the major general problems did surface, and the LSD problem was one of them."

The commission report did not say who was responsible for the LSD testing program in 1953 in which one subject, civilian biochemist Frank Olson, died. Nor did it say who was responsible for ordering destruction of that program's records in 1973.

It said two CIA employees were reprimanded as a result, but did not reveal who they were.

A commission attorney who asked not to be identified said the LSD investigation was probably the most frustrating to work on, because the records had been destroyed.

The man believed to have been in charge of the LSD testing program, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a 57-year-old biochemist, retired from the CIA

in 1973 and is now living in India, commission sources said.

Robert Olson (no relation to Frank Olson), a Kansas City attorney who helped investigate the LSD testing program, said, "There is apparently a conflict on the matter of who ordered destruction of the records. It was not a matter that we attempted to resolve."

The commission got two memos from the CIA, he said, one "apparently indicating that Gottlieb somehow recited that he had been instructed to destroy the records. There was a conflicting memo indicating he had initiated the destruction."

Olson said he does not like the way the news media have been pursuing the story since the report was made public on June 10.

The CIA itself recognized "a good time ago" that such testing was "an unacceptable practice, and ordered it stopped," Olson said. "You're engaging in a lot of Monday morning moralizing. . . . I think you're getting the public stirred up about the agency, making the agency appear to be a devilish institution."

Olson said the context of the times, including the pressures brought on by the Cold War and by McCarthyism, in judding the CIA.

"I'm confident that the people who destroyed the records no doubt felt it would be embarrassing to the agency, or

embarrassing to somebody, to have the whole subject come out," he said.

The attorney who asked not to be identified said the commission did not make a conscious decision not to interview Dr. Robert Lashbrook, a CIA employee believed to have worked for Gottlieb. Lashbrook was with Frank Olson the night Olson fell to his death from a 10th floor New York City hotel room just after Thanksgiving, 1953.

Lashbrook, who left the CIA in 1963, is now a high school science teacher in Ojai, Calif.

The attorney and others also said the commission was very rushed. "You wouldn't believe the amount of things we had to investigate," the attorney said.

Another commission source who asked not to be identified said he would not comment on who was responsible for ordering the LSD tests. "I just don't see what good it does to hash these out, and start get-

## a Rushed Job

ting specific people involved," he said.

Members of Frank Olson's family have become avid newspaper readers since they held a news conference a week and a half ago to disclose publicly for the first time the name of the man after the LSD experiments.

"I'm a little amazed at the widespread use of experimental drugs," said Alice Olson, his widow.

His oldest son, Eric, gradu-

ate psychology student at Harvard University, commented, "I guess the most powerful feeling I've had recently is I've been learning about my own background and history connected with my father's experience through the newspapers, which is very strange."

People who have contacted Eric Olson "feel very frightened by it, and they really identify with it, much more than with other stories about the CIA," he said.