

New CIA Revelations

Washington

Drug addicts at a federal rehabilitation center in Kentucky were "paid off" in morphine and other narcotics for taking part in experiments that were financed by the Central Intelligence Agency, witnesses said at a Senate hearing yesterday.

The experiments in the 1950s at the Federal Addiction Research Center in Lexington, Ky., involved the administration of various drugs, including hallucinogens to prisoner volunteers, according to a statement prepared by the CIA.

The intelligence agency said the experiments were financed under the cover of the Office of Naval Research and were actu-

ally carried out by doctors from the National Institute of Mental Health.

James Henderson Childs, a former prisoner at the facility who now lives in Washington, told a joint meeting of the Senate Health and Practices and Procedures Committees that he volunteered for the program because of the promised payoffs in drugs.

"After they tested you they gave you some kind of drug called morphine and some of another kind of drug," said Childs. "I don't know what it was but it made you high. That was the payoff."

Childs said that while he was at the center to break his drug addiction habit in 1951 and 1952 he

and most of the other addicts who signed up for the experiments did so because of the availability of the drug payoffs.

Prisoners who took part, he said, would build up deposits in a "drug bank" which they could collect after finishing with the experiments.

"You would go down there and a guy would look out the door and he'd say 'Where do you want it?' " Childs said. "Most addicts would take it in the arm and then everyone would walk around the halls high."

Another former prisoner, Edward M. Flowers, said he learned of the availability of LSD that was being given to prisoners in cookies during experiments. Flowers said from 1952 to 1955 prisoners were allowed to take their pay for being in the CIA-financed programs in either drugs or time off.

"My whole reason for going into the program was to get drugs," said Flowers, who now works for a drug rehabilitation program in Alexandria, Va.

The director of the experimental program, Dr. Harris Isbell, said he had to pay prisoners in drugs or time off their sentences because no money was authorized for incentives to take part in the experiments until the mid-1950s.

The CIA experiments, he said, were done to test new drugs as they became available. "The overriding consideration," said Isbell, "was protection of the public. We had these new drugs coming in and they had to be evaluated."

The Lexington experiments were part of the broad CIA drug experimentation program that involved more than 30 universities and private and public agencies, according to CIA documents.

One document which was declassified and turned over to the Senate committee yesterday indicated that LSD research was performed on humans in an unidentified hospital in Massachusetts, a biological laboratory in New York and a "clinic of the record court" in a city in Michigan.

The CIA documents also state that various employees of the intelligence agency took the drugs to prepare them for administering them to others. The in-house experiments were conducted by the agency's Technical Services Division which was under the direction of Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, and the subjects were told what they were getting.

"It was understood to have been a policy of the researchers," the document said, "that no one could administer the mind-influencing drugs until they were fully familiar with them and had themselves experienced their effects."