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# 'Mind Control' Stories Denied

## Washington

An unpublished government report says scare stories about "behavior modification" research have led people to believe the government is developing sinister mind control techniques, it was learned yesterday.

Now in draft form, the report defends federally-financed research into behavior control as a careful effort to alleviate human suffering. It says uninformed critics have confused these programs with terrifying thought control methods described in novels like "1984."

"The media and literature have incorrectly linked behavior modification with techniques such as psychosurgery, chemotherapy, electroshock and brainwashing," the report says.

"The fantasied potency of imaginary or untested mind-controlling techniques, popularized in such works as 'Brave New World,' '1984,' 'The Manchurian Candidate,' and 'A Clockwork Orange,' has been extended to encompass standard, carefully evaluated behavior modification techniques."

The National Institute of Mental Health is readying the report for publication next month as the government's first response to critics of behavior therapy programs. UPI obtained a draft copy of the study, which is entitled: "Behavior Modification: Perspective on a Current Issue."

The institute is an agency of the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

Former Senator Sam Ervin (Dem-N.C.) and other critics have alleged the federally-financed behavior therapy programs have involved such techniques as

psychosurgery — known to its opponents as "murder of the mind" — and have violated the civil rights of patients involved.

The report's authors — Dr. Bertram S. Brown, the health institute director, and two researchers — say their intent is to distinguish between "warranted and unwarranted concerns" about behavior modification.

They said behavior modification chiefly involves changing a subject's environment and personality by psychological means rather than by using drugs of surgery, and the research has not been carried out in secret although critics imply it has.

The authors conceded abuses of behavior therapy, sometimes in prisons and among the poor. But they said individual resistance and public awareness would work against repetition of such abuses.

Most recently, behavior modification has been extended to social problems such as facilitating cooperative living in a housing project, decreasing littering, and encouraging the use of public transportation, the report said without further explanation.

It disclosed that \$3 million a year is provided for behavioral research by HEW's Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, of a total \$121 million research budget.

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