



UNITED STATES  
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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NOTE TO DR. J.L. LIVERMAN, AES - GTN

RE: PRISONER EXPERIMENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

Dr. C. Alvin Paulsen, the principal investigator in the Washington State testicular irradiation experiments, is quoted in a Seattle newspaper story today as saying that 8 12 of the 64 irradiated prisoners in Washington declined and did not receive a vasectomy. Although I have not been able to contact Paulsen to confirm this, the DBER staff re-checked the files and told me that Paulsen's statement is accurate.

We previously told the news media that all prisoners involved, in both Oregon and Washington, were given vasectomies -- which, until today, we believed to be the truth. Unfortunately, this new information about the Washington experiment raises a controversial side-issue: the possibility of genetic mutations in any offspring who might have been conceived.

We are formulating a response to potential questions on this which may arise, and wanted to alert you, in case you are asked about it.

On another related matter: Mavis Rowley, Dr. Heller's assistant in the Oregon experiments, told me today that an attorney for one of the prisoners in Oregon asked her for information on serving legal papers on Heller (who was medically incapacitated by a stroke in 1972). Thus, legal action has apparently now been initiated.

cc: Al Alibrando, OPA

Phil Garon  
Office of Public Affairs

March 3, 1976



MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY - 3

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FACTSHEET HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION

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Project Name:

Date Started:  
Date Terminated:

Institution:  
Funding Source(s):

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Identification:  
Project Duration:  
Principal Investigator(s):

Responsible Government Official(s):

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Objective(s) of Project:

Short Description:

Follow-up Data:

References:

Attachment(s):

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