

# Inmates Exposed to Radiation In Study on Reproduction

## *U.S.-Funded Tests Used Volunteers*

Associated Press

RICHLAND, Wash., Sept. 23—Radiation experiments funded by a federal agency were conducted on more than 100 prison volunteers in Washington state and Oregon during the 1960s and early 1970s, according to newly released documents.

"Effects of Radiation on the Human Testes" describes experiments in which the volunteers' testicles were irradiated by X-rays to study effects of radiation on reproductive function.

Mike Lawrence, operations manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford nuclear reservation located here, released the summaries of Atomic Energy Commission projects Monday to the Hanford Health Effects Panel, established by

the national Centers for Disease Control.

The experiments were funded by the Atomic Energy Commission, forerunner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Energy Research and Development Administration, the documents said.

An employe of Battelle's Pacific Northwest Laboratories conducted the test on 67 prisoners at Oregon State Prison between August 1963 and May 1971. A University of Washington researcher conducted similar tests on 64 Washington State Penitentiary inmates between June 1963 and February 1973.

In the Washington study, vasectomies were performed before the end of the study "to eliminate the possibility of defective offspring," the summary noted. Although only

men desiring a vasectomy were accepted for the study, several changed their minds and did not want the surgery, it said.

The tests were conducted to study ways of protecting radiation workers, medical treatments and to study health effects, said Paula Clark, a Hanford program administrator.

Protocol for the experiments was approved at hospitals before the

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—Mike Lawrence

tests were conducted, she said.

"We're not talking about human experiments in terms of Nazi Germany in World War II," Lawrence told reporters.

Hanford no longer is involved in human experimentation.

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2 of 6

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