



THE BLACK VAULT

This document was obtained from The Black Vault, an online database of declassified government documents. This particular record is housed in the MKULTRA/Mind Control Collection, a compilation of more than 20,000 pages declassified by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The entire collection is free to download and online at:

<http://mkultra.theblackvault.com>

SUMMARY

The CIA-sponsored research project with the Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences (TRIMS) was conducted to improve the usefulness of physiological measurements as indicators of emotional stress. The subjects were volunteer medical students who were both witting and consenting. Measurements were made of such things as heart and breathing rates of the students during final exam week when they were presumably under more tension than at other times during the semester. For comparison purposes, similar measurements were taken during periods of non-stress. During one phase of the work, stimulants and depressants (barbiturates and amphetamine) were administered to 7-8 student volunteers to determine the effects of these drugs upon the baseline measurements being made. At no time was LSD or any other hallucinogen used.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

List of Facts re Contracts with Dr. Burch and Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences (TRIMS)

Reference: 17 July 1975 AP wire story and Mr. Thuermer notes re Washington Post reporter (Tom Curtis) conversation

1. Dr. Burch's statement concerning Agency-sponsored research is true.

2. No LSD was used in any CIA-sponsored activity with TRIMS. We were not involved with LSD work for the Air Force that is mentioned in the AP wire story. The contractor's proposal included an experiment in which LSD might be used. That work was not done.

3. Stimulants and depressants (Amphetamine and barbiturates) were administered to witting and consenting subjects to investigate the effects of such drugs upon the rates of physiological measurements, such as heart rate, breathing rate, and skin moisture.

4. The studies were funded through the Air Force for the first ^{four} years. ⁽¹⁹⁶⁴⁻¹⁹⁶⁸⁾ Agency association with the activities was classified, however, the Director of TRIMS was totally unaware of the source of funds. Subsequently, research was (unclassified association) directly with Dr. Burch through TRIMS ⁽¹⁹⁶⁸⁻⁶⁹⁾.

5. The studies had as their purpose the improvement of our understanding of physiological measurements as indicators of emotional stress (the polygraph problem). Another possible application is determination of evasiveness or deceptiveness--as indicated by observable physiological changes--at meetings between U.S. and foreign officials.

6. The presence or absence of stress was inferred, in the first study, by making measurements of medical students during final exam week and comparing the measurements with those taken at other periods during the semester. In the latter studies, stress was produced by having the volunteer students participate to varying degrees in a mock crime situation in which subjects pretended to steal an object and then attempted to deceive a polygraph operator about their "guilt."

7. Only in the last phase ^{of the activity funded thru the Air Force.} were any drugs administered and then to only about 7-8 subjects (all witting and consenting).

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

See | The material was released along with the summary!

R ZYYVU VCZCZ

TTTINS-CIA A315 LEAD 460

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) - A TEXAS LEGISLATOR RELEASED A REPORT WEDNESDAY SAYING A STATE MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTION HAD PERFORMED LIE DETECTOR RESEARCH FOR THE CIA THAT MIGHT HAVE INVOLVED GIVING LSD AND OTHER DRUGS; HOWEVER, ONE OF THE INSTITUTE'S RESEARCHERS DISPUTED THE REPORT PREPARED BY STATE REP. LANE DENTON AND ONE OF HIS AIDES.

DENTON, A DEMOCRAT FROM WACO, SENT A COPY OF THE REPORT TO SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, CHAIRMAN OF A SENATE COMMITTEE THAT IS INVESTIGATING THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

"THE CIA SUCCESSFULLY PERSUADED SEVERAL STATE MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION EMPLOYEES TO KEEP THE COVERT CIA FINANCING OF THESE PROJECTS FROM THE STATE MHMR BOARD," DENTON SAID.

THE REPORT RESULTED FROM A STUDY BY DENTON AND HIS CHIEF AIDE, BILL ALESHIRE, OF GRANTS TO THE TEXAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MENTAL SCIENCES IN HOUSTON.

THE INSTITUTE, AN ARM OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION (MHMR), IS LIMITED BY LAW TO RESEARCH, TRAINING AND EDUCATION "IN TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS," THE REPORT SAID.

THE REPORT SAID NONE OF THE CIA-FUNDED RESEARCH WAS RELATED TO THAT GOAL.

DR. KENNETH GAVER, STATE MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION COMMISSIONER, SAID THE INSTITUTE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO COOPERATE WITH DENTON'S STUDY. HE SAID THE LIE DETECTOR WORK TIED IN WITH RESEARCH BY DR. NEIL BURCH IN MEASUREMENT OF PHYSICAL CHANGES THAT MIGHT OCCUR IN EMOTIONAL DISORDERS.

BURCH DENIED THAT INSTITUTE RESEARCHERS HAD MISUSED STATE FUNDS - AND PLAYED A ROLE IN "COVERT" EFFORTS TO HELP THE CIA DESIGN A PERFECT LIE DETECTOR OR HAD GIVEN ANY DRUGS - INCLUDING LSD - TO UNSUSPECTING PERSONS.

HE ADDED THAT DENTON MAY HAVE CONFUSED TWO SEPARATE RESEARCH PROJECTS.

BURCH SAID THAT FROM 1961 TO 1968 HE COORDINATED A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF LSD. IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH LIE-DETECTOR TESTS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE AIR FORCE "WAS CONCERNED THAT LSD MIGHT BE USED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IN CHEMICAL WARFARE MODALITIES . . . THAT A GREAT DEAL OF LSD MIGHT BE DUMPED IN THE WATERS AND COULD PARALYZE ENTIRE COMMUNITIES . . . AND OUR TASK WAS TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS."

A SECOND MAJOR STUDY STARTED IN 1964 ALSO WAS FUNDED BY THE AIR FORCE AND "LATER BY THE CIA" AND THIS INVOLVED . . .

PROJECTS FROM THE STATE MARR BOARD," DENTON SAID. —

THE REPORT RESULTED FROM A STUDY BY DENTON AND HIS CHIEF AIDE, BILL BLESHIRE, OF GRANTS TO THE TEXAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MENTAL SCIENCES IN HOUSTON.

THE INSTITUTE, AN ARM OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION (MHR); IS LIMITED BY LAW TO RESEARCH, TRAINING AND EDUCATION "IN TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS," THE REPORT SAID.

THE REPORT SAID NONE OF THE CIA-FUNDED RESEARCH WAS RELATED TO THAT GOAL.

DR. KENNETH GAVER, STATE MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION COMMISSIONER, SAID THE INSTITUTE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO COOPERATE WITH DENTON'S STUDY. HE SAID THE LIE DETECTOR WORK TIED IN WITH RESEARCH BY DR. NEIL BURCH IN MEASUREMENT OF PHYSICAL CHANGES THAT MIGHT OCCUR IN EMOTIONAL DISORDERS.

BURCH DENIED THAT INSTITUTE RESEARCHERS HAD MISUSED STATE FUNDS; — AD PLAYED A ROLE IN "COVERT" EFFORTS TO HELP THE CIA DESIGN A PERFECT LIE DETECTOR OR HAD GIVEN ANY DRUGS — INCLUDING LSD — TO UNSUSPECTING PERSONS.

HE ADDED THAT DENTON MAY HAVE CONFUSED TWO SEPARATE RESEARCH PROJECTS.

BURCH SAID THAT FROM 1961 TO 1968 HE COORDINATED A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF LSD. IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH LIE-DETECTOR TESTS; HE SAID.

HE SAID THE AIR FORCE "WAS CONCERNED THAT LSD MIGHT BE USED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IN CHEMICAL WARFARE MODALITIES . . . THAT A GREAT DEAL OF LSD MIGHT BE DUMPED IN THE WATERS AND COULD PARALYZE ENTIRE COMMUNITIES . . . AND OUR TASK WAS TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS."

A SECOND MAJOR STUDY STARTED IN 1964 ALSO WAS FUNDED BY THE AIR FORCE AND "LATER BY THE CIA" AND THIS INVOLVED RESEARCH ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THE POLYGRAPH OR LIE DETECTOR TEST; HE SAID.

"THE CIA HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EARLIER LSD STUDIES AND ONLY ENTERED THE POLYGRAPH PROJECT IN ABOUT 1967 OR 1968," BURCH SAID.

THE GOAL, BURCH SAID, WAS TO FIND OUT IF THE DRUGS ALTERED THE SUBJECTS' RESPONSES AND COULD, INDEED, BE USED TO "BEAT THE LIE DETECTOR TESTS."

BURCH SAID IN AN INTERVIEW: 9TH GRAF A315
2025-07-17

17 Jul

Tom Curtiss, Washington Post (calling from Houston)

Says doing story for tomorrow on CIA secretly funded studies between 1964 and 1971 into lie detector techniques involving use of LSD. Source is said to be a Dr. Neil Burch and a congressman (appears to be Denton, according to call from Dallas) which also being asked questions about this in Dallas). Studies are said to have been under the title: "Psychological and Physiological Correlates of Human Information Processing Under Altered States of Consciousness."

Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences involved. Money conduits were Air Force; Contract numbers given as: XG3102, 1968-69; XG3061, 1968; ~~XG~~ XG324J, 1970-71. Also involved were