

Ban on chloroform proposed by FDA

commerce if it contains chloroform. Food packaging in which chloroform was involved also would be banned, effective the same date.

FDA Commissioner Alexander M. Schmidt said the ban was proposed because of new evidence that it causes cancer in test animals. He stressed that there was no evidence humans run the same risk, but said:

"The benefits of chloroform are minimal and do not warrant any risk, however small. The actions we propose today will eliminate any possible risk."

"I encourage drug and cosmetic manufacturers who have not done so already to discontinue using chloroform immediately, even before we complete this required legal procedure."

The FDA said its proposal was based on a report to the FDA last month by the National Cancer Institute which concluded "that chloroform induces liver cancer in mice and renal kidney tumors in male rats."

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Food and Drug Administration yesterday proposed a ban on the use of chloroform in drugs, cosmetics and food packages because of evidence indicating it may cause cancer.

The FDA said chloroform has been used in cough medicines, liniments and a few toothpastes and "as a solvent to make adhesives and resins for food packaging."

The proposal, subject to a period of public comment, would be effective July 8 of this year, after which no human drug or cosmetic would be allowed in interstate

Hughes autopsy reveals kidney failure

HOUSTON (UPI) — Doctors who performed an autopsy on the body of billionaire recluse Howard R. Hughes said yesterday the flamboyant industrialist who parlayed an oil tool firm into one of the world's greatest fortunes died of kidney failure.

"The preliminary autopsy finding demonstrated that Mr. Hughes died of chronic renal disease," said Dr. Henry McIntosh, chief of internal medicine at Methodist Hospital.

McIntosh, the physician Hughes was being flown to see when he died, said the kidney had steadily deteriorated and finally refused to rid the body of wastes.

"We have no way of correcting the downhill progress," he said.

Both McIntosh and Houston's chief medical examiner, Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk, said Hughes died yesterday of natural causes. They had no plans to

investigate his death any further.

"There is no real reason for us to look into it," McIntosh said. "We only have evidence the kidney played out."

Jachimczyk simply said: "There's no evidence of foul play."

Hughes died during an emergency flight from his Acapulco, Mexico hideaway to Methodist Hospital. His body will be placed in a simple coffin and buried in the family plot near downtown Houston at an undisclosed time and date.

Larry Mathis, the Methodist Hospital vice president who announced the doctors' findings, said Hughes' fingerprints were being forwarded to the FBI in Washington for positive identification.

In Washington, a Treasury Department spokesman said Secretary William Simon had ordered IRS agents in Houston to "go to the body" and take fingerprints for "our own independent investigation to ascertain the identity." The spokesman said the procedure was not routine but Simon thought it advisable "because of the obvious tax implications." Simon also said there were other reasons but he would not reveal them.

McIntosh said the secrecy in handling Hughes' body was purposely in keeping with the recluse's lifestyle.

"We could do nothing more than continue what he would like," he said.

Jachimczyk stressed Hughes, despite bizarre tales of his appearance, looked, quite simply, like an ill and aging man.

"He looked like any other human being, seventyish, lost weight, but I can assure you he did not have three-inch fingernails or hair down his back," Jachimczyk said. The medical examiner said, however, the billionaire appeared to have been bedridden for some time.

The one-hour-and-40-minute preliminary autopsy was performed at the request of Mrs. Frederick R. Lummis, an aunt of Hughes.

Research, church to get Hughes' funds

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The disposition of Howard Hughes' fortune will not be known until the will — if there is one — is filed for probate, but medical research and the Mormon Church may get some of it.

Hughes, who died yesterday, left no widow or direct heirs. He was believed to be the second richest American (after J. Paul Getty) with a fortune estimated at nearly \$2 billion.

The Houston, Tex., Chronicle reported yesterday that Noah Dietrich, 87, a former Hughes aide in-

terviewed by the paper some time ago, said Hughes would leave the Mormon Church much of his estate.

Also, Dietrich said the Hughes Medical Foundation would be a major beneficiary. It was well known that Hughes preferred to have Mormons working for him.

"He once told me," Dietrich was quoted as saying, "that Mormons do not smoke and he was adamant about anyone smoking near him, particularly the year or so before he went into seclusion."

"But most important, he

said they do not drink and are less apt to get on a binge and start talking about the Hughes affairs, where he was, or talking to reporters about how he looks."

In his last public statement, Hughes said he would like much of his estate to go to medical research.

He told reporters in a telephone news conference called to denounce the bogus Clifford Irving "autobiography" that medical research is "where the bulk of my estate will go."

He gave the University of Nevada \$1 million to start a

medical school and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute of Miami already has an estimated \$2.5 billion, including ownership of Hughes Aircraft, a Southern California firm valued at \$500 million that makes electronic devices and missiles.

Most of the wealth was in properties, including casinos, hotels, airlines, land, factories, mines, oil interests and stocks.

Operations of the Nevada casinos will continue, his main holding company, the Summa Corp., told the Nevada Gaming Board.

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