

Crime-fighting program does little, study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — An independent study of the government's multi-million-dollar crime-fighting program concludes it has accomplished little and should be abolished.

"The nation is in no better position today than it was when the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 was enacted," says the report, a draft copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press.

"Crime has increased and no solutions to the crime problem are on the horizon," it added.

Focus of the study was the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, which has disbursed \$4.4 billion in grants to communities to help fight crime.

"It is the conclusion of this report that the LEAA program should be abolished," the study said.

Entitled "Law and Disorder IV," the report was the fourth in a series of studies of LEAA. All were directed by Sarah C. Carey, a Washington attorney, and all were highly critical of the program.

The study will be published by the Center for

National Security Studies, a private, non-profit research group with headquarters here that specializes in topics including law enforcement.

The study examined the LEAA's high impact program under which \$160 million was channeled to eight cities in an effort to reduce stranger-to-stranger crime. The impact cities were Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, St. Louis, Newark, N.J., and Portland, Ore. A copy of the study has not yet been made available to the LEAA.

FBI accused of illegal bugging

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI has been tapping telephones and bugging Americans in noncriminal cases for 40 years, and it continues to use these and more sophisticated techniques despite increased legal restrictions, a Senate staff report said yesterday.

The most private conversations of American citizens have been vulnerable to monitoring by government agents without warrants in violation of constitutional rights, the report said.

Electronic methods range from conventional wire taps to microphones secretly planted in private locations or on "mobile informants," so-called "spike mikes" which can be inserted into the wall of an adjoining room; and parabolic microphones, directed at "targets" in train stations or on streets and effective over long distances.

A telephone can be turned into a

"miketele" capable of intercepting a conversation within hearing range — with or without the phone in use.

"Even more sophisticated technology permits the government to intercept any telephone, telegram or telex communication which is transmitted at least partially through the air — as most such communications now are," the report said.

"Techniques such as these have been used and continue to be used by intelligence agencies in their operations."

Similar methods are used by the National Security Agency and the CIA, which, according to past disclosures, even devised a "bugged" toothbrush. But the staff intelligence report concentrated on the FBI.

An FBI spokesman said the agency would have no comment "until we have had ample time to read the report."

He said the FBI continues to con-

duct electronic surveillance under court warrants in organized crime cases and with the permission of the president or attorney general in foreign intelligence or espionage cases.

Techniques "have understandably enabled these agencies to obtain valuable information relevant to their legitimate intelligence missions," the report said.

But by its very nature, electronic surveillance allows the collection of "vast amounts of information unrelated to any legitimate governmental interest about large numbers of American citizens."

Nothing is immune from interception, the report said, and it included excerpts from one FBI telephone tap that stolidly reported the wife of the "target" ordering meat from a grocer, revealing a daughter's toothache and chatting

about milk bills, soap operas and church.

Telephone taps and other surveillance have been approved and sometimes ordered by presidents back to Franklin D. Roosevelt and attorneys general back to William D. Mitchell in 1931.

In recent years, targets have included those considered "enemies" and anti-war groups, black organizations, congressmen, reporters, "dissidents" and "radicals" — anyone judged as not conforming to, or posing "potential threats" to, established norms.

Court decisions narrowed the field for authorized electronic surveillance. But hundreds of operations were conducted without judicial approval or Justice Department knowledge, and gaps exist for domestic interceptions on broad grounds of "national security," the report said.

Insulin links to disease

RESTON, Va. (UPI) — Insulin, prolonger of life for thousands of diabetics, may contribute to the disease that is currently the nation's most rapidly increasing cause of blindness, a research team said yesterday.

The possibility is by no means proven, they emphasized in a paper presented at the Science Writers Seminar, but tests with resus monkeys suggest it, said Dr. Alan L. Shabo of the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles.

"Based upon our results, one must raise the important question of whether insulin, in addition to prolonging life, could have contributed to the marked increased incidence of proliferative diabetic retinopathy over the last 50 years," he said.

In 1930, the percentage of new cases of blindness due to diabetes was less than one per cent nationally, Shabo said. By 1970, it had risen to 10.9 per cent and is reported to be closer to 20 per cent in some states such as New York and Massachusetts.

The four-day meeting is sponsored by Research to Prevent Blindness, a national voluntary research foundation.

More than 1.5 million persons are blind to the point of being unable to read even with glasses. A half million eye operations are performed annually in the United States.

Christians, Moslems reject newly-elected leader

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Fierce fighting raged yesterday in desolate mountain towns northeast of Beirut between Christian militiamen and Moslem leftists rejecting the election of Elias Sarkis as Lebanon's new president.

U.S. special envoy L. Dean Brown met for an hour with Sarkis yesterday, but embassy officials did not disclose details of their talks.

Brown earlier sent a note of congratulations to Sarkis, Lebanon's conservative central bank president, elected by a 66-0 vote of parliament Saturday in a Beirut villa raked by leftist machine gun and mortar fire.

Brown also sent a letter to

leftist candidate Raymond Edde, who boycotted the election, praising Edde for his "statesmanship."

Political circles were unanimous in predicting Sarkis' election would fail to bring peace to Lebanon, torn by 13 months of civil war, unless Sarkis reached an understanding with leftist alliance leader Kamal Jumblatt.

Jumblatt, who Saturday rejected the election as a "flagrant forgery" resulting from Syrian "military and political pressure," remained in Aley in the mountain combat zone.

Local reports said the fighting raged day-long yesterday among the peaks

and desolate snow-patched canyons of the Mt. Lebanon region northeast of Beirut.

Fighting centered around the towns of Aintourah and Mtein, where rightists used American-made tanks and heavy field artillery in a drive to dislodge leftists from the road leading to the Christian center of Zahle.

The leftist radio station said "the corpses of 100 isolationists (rightwingers) still lie on the battlefield," while left-wing "martyrs" numbered 16. The figures could not be immediately confirmed.

In the capital, sporadic gunbattles were reported along Moslem-Christian confrontation lines in the

eastern and southern suburbs.

Leftist gunners hurled a sudden barrage of mortar fire on the downtown area early today, but threats by Jumblatt's alliance to renew open warfare had kept the streets deserted.

Earlier shooting incidents around Beirut following the election killed 70 persons and wounded more than 120. Fighting in Beirut died down yesterday however.

The leftists called for rejection of Sarkis, whose election they attributed to "foreign military and political pressure." Syria, the architect of Lebanon's peace plan, was the target of the leftists' anger.

Sarkis had the support of rightists and Syria in the election and was expected to take office when President Suleiman Franjeh resigns within a week — a key point in Syria's peace initiative.

In South Lebanon, a strike shut down the city of Sidon for the second successive day and leftists called for demonstrations today against the election of Sarkis to the presidency.

Marriage rates declining

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Wedding bells rang less often in 1974 than in the previous year for the first decline in marriages in 16 years, the National Center for Health Statistics said yesterday.

The 2,229,667 marriages were 54,000 fewer than in 1973. Early data for 1975 indicate a continuing decline, with about 2,126,000 marriages per-

formed, said the center, a unit of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Brides aged slightly during the last decade, but the groom's age remained steady, the center said. The median age of brides at first marriage was 20.6 years in 1974, up from 20.3 in 1963. The median age of grooms was 22.5 years.

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(answers to puzzle on page 12)

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