

Medical use of pot, heroin to be checked

WASHINGTON (UPI) — With an eye to relieving the pain many cancer patients suffer, President Carter's top health adviser said yesterday the administration will examine whether heroin and marijuana might have a legitimate medical use.

Dr. Peter Bourne said he has asked U.S. Surgeon General Julius Richmond to look at both heroin and marijuana from a scientific standpoint.

With heroin, Bourne said, the government will try to assess whether the controversial drug might be used to

alleviate the pain of terminally ill lung cancer patients.

For example, he said, persons dying of lung cancer often have coughs that cause excruciating pain. He said the British have learned heroin will suppress the cough.

Bourne said the government also will try to determine whether marijuana might help ease nausea in persons undergoing chemotherapy treatments, which are used in an attempt to kill cancer cells.

Bourne said the purpose of using

heroin and marijuana would not be to treat cancer, but to alleviate pain, and he warned that the government is not advocating such use at this point.

"It may turn out not to be effective," he said.

Bourne said he proposed the two drugs be studied in a letter to Richmond Sept. 21 after consulting with Carter. The letter was not made public.

Heroin and marijuana are rarely used as medicine, Bourne said, not because they are illegal, but partly because of a general timidity in the medical

profession stemming from their classification as drugs of criminal abuse.

The National Cancer Institute, however, already is considering experimenting with marijuana to see if the drug can reduce nausea in cancer patients.

Marijuana was used in the late 1800s and early 1900s as a sedative and to relieve pain or muscle spasm in a variety of diseases. But it fell from favor because doctors could not determine how much to use.

FDA claiming evidence in liquid protein deaths

WASHINGTON (UPI) — There is strong evidence that liquid protein has caused or was "at least a contributing factor" in the deaths of 10 obese women using it to lose weight, the Food and Drug Administration reported yesterday.

Six other deaths have also occurred among persons on the diet, but doctors are more skeptical about the cause in these cases because the patients had other medical problems which may have been a factor.

FDA Commissioner Donald Kennedy told a news conference his agency now will require a warning label on predigested liquid protein and "we will use every regulatory

tool at our disposal to get it off the market" if problems prove even more widespread.

"We have what we are afraid may be only the tip of the iceberg," Kennedy said.

The FDA said the 10 deaths in question all were due to irregular heartbeat and all the women were under medical supervision when they died — eight of them in hospitals.

Kennedy said FDA also has reports of "a number of severe illnesses" and that both the deaths and illnesses "involve people who subsisted on this kind of diet without other nourishment for weeks or months."

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Microwave bombardment of U.S. embassy goes up

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The State Department said yesterday the Russians have sharply increased their microwave bombardment of the U.S. Moscow embassy over the past two months.

Department spokesman John Trattner said there have been bursts of increased radiation, lasting less than one hour each, since Sept. 7.

He said the State Department has brought up the subject with Soviet officials, but has received no explanation.

Officially, the Soviets have always denied that they beam microwaves at the U.S. embassy. They maintain the source of the radiation, which provoked a health scare when it became public knowledge last year, is leakage from the electronic communications and

eavesdropping devices on the embassy's top floor.

Trattner said the new, intensified radiation bursts reached the power of nine microwatts per square centimeter — one microwatt below the Soviet industrial safety standard and considerably below the U.S. safety standard.

After the United States filed protests last year, U.S. officials said the Soviets dropped the radiation level to about two microwatts per square centimeter.

U.S. officials speculate that the microwaves are part of a sophisticated Soviet eavesdropping system, which reflect sound waves.

Trattner said there is no evidence to date that the radiation has had any ill effects on embassy employees.

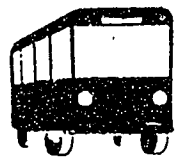
UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 10

SPECIAL EVENTS

Board of Trustees meeting, Room 402 Keller.
Registration deadline for College Bowl competitions to take place week of Dec. 5 is Friday, Nov. 11, Room 203A HUB.
Free U course description deadline is Friday, Nov. 11.
FSHA, A New Orleans Dinner, Maple Room, Henderson. For reservations, phone 865-7441.
University Press Book Show, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Kern lobby.
Selections from the CBS award winning "60 Minutes." "The Pomeroy File," 2nd period; "Enemy of the People," 3rd period; "End of a Salesman," 4th period; "Winning," 5th period; HUB Gallery.
ASA Budget Committee meeting, 12:45 p.m., Room 307 HUB.
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 6:30 p.m., Room 318 HUB.
Alliance Student Fellowship, 7 p.m., Room 319 HUB.
Free U, yoga class, 7 p.m., Room 225 HUB.
PSU Association of the Handicapped, 7 p.m., Room 323 HUB.
Tau Beta Pi meeting, 7 p.m., Room 104 Osmond.
Free U, disco class, 7:30 p.m., HUB ballroom.
Frontlash meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 312 Boucke.
P.S.O.C. Sailing Division meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 214 Boucke.
Runners Night, a panel discussion of all types of running, 7:30 p.m., Room 112 Kern.

Take The Centre Line To The Football Game



Buses will leave for the Penn State - Temple football game at Beaver Stadium beginning at 11:30 A.M. Saturday, November 12. Tickets will be on sale for 50 cents one-way and \$1.00 round trip at Schlow Library.

Buses will depart from the Schlow Library (Beaver and Allen Sts.) as soon as filled, with the last bus leaving at 1:15 P.M. Return trips will depart immediately following the game.

NO tickets will be sold at Beaver Stadium.

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