

FDA Woman Bars Drug, Prevents Possible Tragedy

By LEON BURNETT
Of the United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been called a stubborn woman. She also has been called an unreasonable bureaucrat.

But Assistant FDA Commissioner Winton B. Rankin says the American public owes her a vote of thanks for that stubbornness.

Rankin confirmed that Dr. Kelsey may have prevented "an American tragedy" by her steadfast refusal to allow the marketing in this country of a sleeping pill later linked to grotesque deformities in newborn children.

The 47-year-old drug specialist withstood a barrage of criticism before a medical investigation eventually proved that her suspicions were well-founded.

The story, which was told Sunday by the Washington Post, involves a drug with the chemical name thalidomide and a rare type of birth defect known as phocomelia.

West German Development
Thalidomide was developed in 1954 by a West German firm but was discarded because it showed no effect on test animals. In 1958 another German firm found that it promised to be the best sleep-inducer ever — no hangover, no danger in overdosage.

Under the trade name of Contergan the drug found a booming market in West Germany. It was sold in Britain as Distaval, in Portugal as Softenon and in Canada as Talimol.

In September 1960 the William S. Merrell Co. of Cincinnati asked the FDA for clearance to market the compound in the United States.

The thalidomide application became the first assignment for Dr. Kelsey, who had just joined FDA.

Along with the application came data claiming the drug to be safe for use. But Dr. Kelsey was not convinced. She repeatedly refused to approve the drug and her superiors backed her up.

Dr. Kelsey says there were indications that she was a hair-splitter, an unreasonable bureaucrat—that she was stupid. But she refused to budge from her position.

Affliction Becomes Common
In 1961 West Germany found itself confronted by a vexing medical problem. Phocomelia, an affliction so rare that some medical dictionaries do not even list it, was becoming all too common.

Ordinarily, a victim of phocomelia is missing one arm and small rudimentary fingers grow from the stub. But the cases in Germany were worse. Some infants were born with both arms or legs missing, others with three limbs and a few with none at all.

A variety of possible causes, from heredity to radioactive fallout, were considered and discarded. Then last November Dr. Widukind Lenz, a Hamburg pediatrician, con-



DR. FRANCES KELSEY AND FAMILY
She Prevented Sale of European Drug in U.S.

ducted a study which showed that about 20 per cent of the mothers of deformed infants whom he treated had taken thalidomide. After further investigation, he found the rate went up to 50 per cent.

The drug was found to be dangerous to the unborn when taken by the mother within

20 to 40 days after conception. During this period, Dr. Lenz believes, the chances are at least two in five that the baby will be affected.

Removed From Market
Thalidomide was removed from the market in Germany and elsewhere. But it is estimated that by the end of August the number of deformed children born in West Germany will be between 3,500 and 6,000. One of three is expected to die.

Dr. Kelsey, wife of another pharmacologist, F. Ellis Kelsey, special assistant to the surgeon general, and the mother of two daughters 15 and 12, had this to say about her role in keeping the drug off the American market:

"They certainly thought I was unreasonable. But I didn't feel the material to back it up was very adequate."

"The company was very anxious to get the stuff on the market, but this was routine."

The whole general tenor of the criticism of her "was sort of a 'stubbornness,'" she said.

Swedish Officials Visit State Offices
SALEM (UPI)—Two high finance officials from Sweden are spending this week visiting state departments.

They are Reidar Charles Thilert, budget secretary to the Ministry of Finance; and Goran Olaf Oskar Waldau, first secretary to the Ministry of Finance.

They will visit the Department of Finance, legislative division, state accounting division, and some other big state agencies.

Lane Chamber To Meet Tuesday

The Lane County Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday evening at Alberts Lodge near Vida.

A discussion of Lane County roads by county commissioner Jess Hill and committee reports are on the agenda.

Committee meetings will begin at 7 p.m. standard, 8 p.m. daylight, with the regular meeting to begin one hour later.

Six Appear In Lane Circuit Court

Six persons named in indictments approved Friday by the grand jury appeared for arraignment Monday in the Lane County Circuit Court.

Frederick Henry Wright, 48, of Alvadore, will enter a plea Wednesday to a charge he committed second degree arson by allegedly setting fire to a storehouse of the Gillette Nursery in Alvadore.

Another man accused of arson, Edward Albert Bear, 62, of Florence, pleaded innocent to a charge that he set fire to the home of his wife, Ruby S. Bear, on Highway 36 near Deadwood on June 2.

Tom Salevich, 66, of Blachly, who was named in a secret indictment, pleaded innocent to a charge that he contributed to the delinquency of a minor, a seven-year-old girl, on July 1.

Kenneth Eakin, 37, of Gervettown, Calif., will enter a plea Friday to a charge that he passed a forged \$10 check on Jan. 22 at the Safeway store in Florence.

A husband and wife will enter pleas on Wednesday to a charge that they committed larceny on July 16, 1960 by converting a 1956 automobile they had used to secure an \$896 loan from the Georgia-Pacific Federal Credit Union. Accused are Niel Stratton, 30, and Marlene Stratton, 21, of Ekt, Wash.

Also named in grand jury indictments were:

Henry Lee Jones Jr., 25, of 147 Washington St., Eugene, accused of burglary; James Lindsey Eastburn, 19, Joseph Edgar Basham, 20, Harold Anton Goddard, 20, and Robert Arthur Cook, 19, all of Cottage Grove, and all accused of entering a motor vehicle with the intent to steal.

Larry Dale Buessow, of 818 N. 18th St., Springfield, charged with grand larceny; Wanda G. McNeill, 32, of Florence, accused of obtaining money under false pretenses; Lyle Dale Michael, 19, 2091 City View St., Eugene, accused of burglary; and Lorraine W. Staton, 30, of 485 W. 28th Ave., Eugene, accused of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Tom Tugman Shows Improvement
Tom Tugman, ex-Eugenean injured June 27 in a Wyoming plane crash, is showing "gradual improvement," nurse at a Cheyenne hospital reported Monday.

The nurse at Laramie County Memorial Hospital, where Tugman has been unconscious and

Nine Hurt In Sunday Auto Mishaps

Six Injured Near Mapleton

Two cars meeting almost head-on on a bridge, another striking a guard rail, and another hitting a utility pole guy wires injured a total of nine persons in Sunday accidents in Eugene and Lane County.

Six of the injuries came when a car struck a guard rail on a Highway 36 curve, five miles east of Mapleton, and bounced against an embankment on the opposite side of the road. The accident happened about 8 p.m. daylight Sunday.

The investigating sheriff's deputy said the eastbound car was driven by Neil Adrain Lauffer, 21, of 1591 Lyban St., Eugene. He was reported in fair condition with a collar bone injury Monday at Western Lane Hospital in Florence.

Also in fair condition was Mary Kay Seymour, 14, of Rt. 2, Box 117, Veneta, who suffered a fractured pelvis. In fairly good condition were Judy Ann Sherman, 15, of Rt. 1, Box 112, Junction City and Allan E. Clement, 21, 435 1/2 N. 18th St., Springfield.

Darral Dean Laufer, 16, and Revere M. Foster, 19, of Rt. 1, Box 112, Junction City, were treated and released.

State police said a car driven by Lawrence D. Mosier, 39, of Belknap Springs, apparently went out of control about 7:30 p.m. daylight, Sunday, as it rounded a curve and started across Hendricks Bridge. The bridge is on Highway 126 east of Springfield.

Police quoted witnesses as saying the Mosier car swerved across the center line, bounced off the rail on the right side of the bridge and went back across the center line, striking an oncoming car almost head-on.

Driver of the other car was identified as Verne Wesley Whitaker II, 19, of 700 Meriau Lane, Eugene. A passenger in his car, Joyce Lorene Dougan, 17, 1271 K St., Springfield, suffered leg and face cuts and was treated and released at Sacred Heart Hospital.

Police said Mosier also suffered cuts, but there was a report that he was hospitalized.

Eugene police said a car driven by Leland M. Pinkston, 31, of 2788 Harris St., Eugene, went out of control as it made a turn at 29th and Hilyard about 4 a.m. daylight Sunday. The car struck utility pole guy wires.

Pinkston was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital with multiple lacerations. He was reported in good condition Monday.

Negroes' Request for Meeting Rejected by Mayor in Georgia

ALBANY, GA. (UPI)—Mayor Asa D. Kelley Jr. said Monday that Negro leaders pressing racial grievances are lawbreakers and that the city commission will not negotiate with them.

The mayor issued a terse statement in reply to a telegram from four spokesmen for the

Negro Albany Movement appealing for an emergency session with the commission to air the grievances.

The statement said: "The city commission is in receipt of a telegram from a purported Albany Movement requesting a special meeting of the commission."

"It is the decision of the commission not to deal with law violators."

Ministers Involved
Among the signers of the telegram was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Atlanta integration leader, who had called the situation serious and said the only alternative of a grievance session with the commission is a non-violent direct action movement.

Others signers were the Rev. W. G. Anderson, Albany Movement president; Slater King, Albany grocer and real estate man; and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy of Atlanta, an associate of King.

The telegram said: "Request audience with your body to resolve grievances that have been pending for nearly a year. Terms relayed to us by Chief Pritchett (Chief of Police Laurie Pritchett) are unsatisfactory. Long record of broken promises and bad faith agreements reveal conference with Chief Pritchett are of no avail. Respectfully request special meeting with city commission be set not later than Tuesday, July 17."

Protest Marches
The mayor's use of the term law violators for the telegram's signers referred to their arrest on charges of violating city ordinances in integration street

demonstrations last December. All four have had such charges brought against them.

The Rev. W. G. Anderson, president of the Albany Movement, released an "Albany Manifesto" Sunday which demanded the persons arrested for protest marches last December be granted "a fair and speedy trial at once or be summarily discharged from prosecution."

The Albany Movement said it rejects the response of city officials in biracial conferences over segregation issues, including disposition of the demonstration cases.

The manifesto pledged to use only non-violent approaches.

Injunction Urged
The manifesto urged U.S. Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy has been asked to seek a federal court injunction against interference with desegregation of the Albany Bus Terminal. It said there has been only intermittent compliance with the Interstate Commerce Commission ruling against segregation in interstate travel facilities.

Meanwhile, police said Gordon A. Martin Jr., an attorney for the Justice Department, had left the city. Martin was accused Saturday by Kelley of aiding and abetting the Negroes "in fomenting disorder," a charge denied by Martin and other Justice Department officials.

In Washington, the Justice Department said Martin had gone to another Georgia city. A department spokesman said Martin originally went to Georgia on a mission not connected with racial troubles in Albany and was ordered to Albany as an observer simply because he happened to be in the area.

Hearing Set On Bohemia Mine Claims

A public hearing involving the nine-year-old mining claims of the estate of Fred J. Bartels, Eugene, and others will be held in Eugene Tuesday, July 24.

The group laid claim to 227 acres in the Bohemia district of the Umpqua National Forest on the west side of the Cascade Mountains in Lane County in 1953.

The claims have been on application since Bartels applied for the patent to 17 mining claims in 1953. A suit by the group in U.S. District Court in Washington to force the issuance of the patents in 1960 was dismissed but the judge at the time said the Department of Interior had held up far too long action on the applications.

Under U.S. mining laws, claimants who meet the requirements of the laws, obtain ownership to both surface and subsurface claims.

The claims are covered with timber which the Forest Service valued at \$24,400 in 1957.

The specific location and time of the Bureau of Land Management hearing will be announced later.

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