

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 12, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing into law S. 3035, a private bill for the relief of the survivors of Dr. Frank R. Olson.

Dr. Olson was a civilian biochemist employed by the Department of the Army. He died when he jumped from a tenth floor window of a hotel in New York City on November 28, 1953. Approximately one week earlier, employees of the CIA had administered LSD to Dr. Olson. The administration of the drug occurred without his prior knowledge and would appear to have been a proximate cause of his death.

Legislation to appropriate \$1,250,000 to compensate the wife and three children of Dr. Olson for his death was supported by this Administration. However, the Congress approved a measure calling for the payment of a total of \$750,000 to these survivors. Should the Congress next year consider further private relief legislation to raise the total amount of compensation to \$1.25 million, this Administration would support the measure.

The approval of this bill underscores the basic principle that an individual citizen of this nation should be protected from unreasonable transgressions into his personal activities. There should be no doubt that my Administration is opposed to the use of drugs, chemicals or other substances without the prior knowledge and consent of the individual affected. At the request of the family of Dr. Olson, I take this opportunity to highlight this continuing policy.

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