

# Marijuana useful drug expert says

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A drug expert said Wednesday marijuana is good medicine for many ailments and doctors should be free to prescribe it.

At a federal hearing on marijuana laws, Dr. Joel Fort testified the drug had been used by physicians since 5000 B.C. and had proven helpful in treating glaucoma, cancer, asthma, alcoholism and even drug addiction.

"I think it is vital and essential for medical practice, that a tremendous amount of unnecessary suffering has the potential for being relieved by the availability of this substance and we should do everything possible to make it legally available," Fort said.

Fort, a world-renowned drug researcher and author, testified at a Drug Enforcement Administration hearing into federal legal controls on marijuana. He spoke on behalf of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) which is challenging the current federal classification of marijuana.

It is now lumped together with such narcotics as heroin and LSD in a category of drug considered to have no medical value and high abuse potential.

Federal law makes marijuana possession a misdemeanor punishable for first offenders by up to 1 year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Government attorney Robert Rosthal accused Fort of making broad statements and said his testimony was irrelevant to the issue of reclassifying the drug. He said the DEA would base its decision on whether to reclassify marijuana on such considerations as international drug treaty obligations.

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Member of the Executive Commission to study U.S. policy toward Latin America, and Ford Foundation Official.

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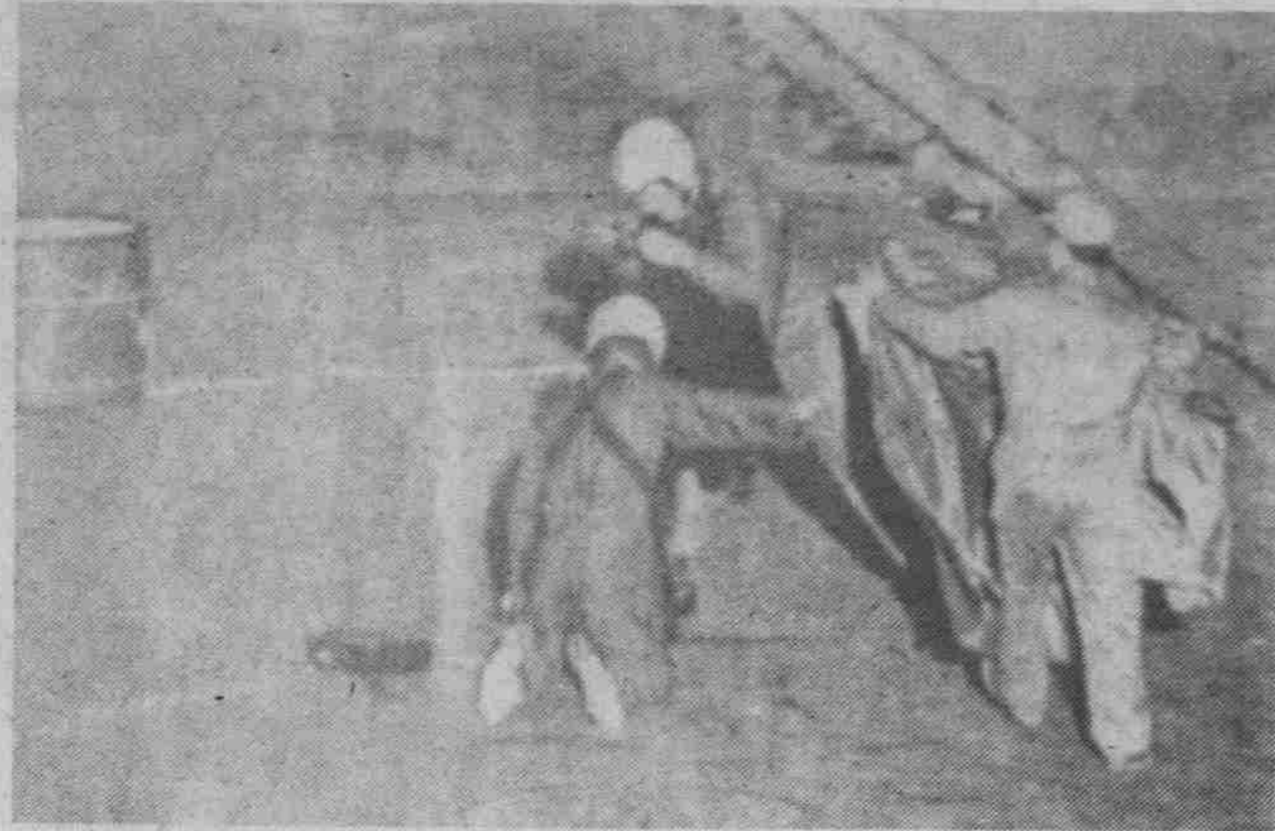
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Members of the bomb disposal squad prepare to cover a briefcase containing 14 sticks of dynamite found in an Oakland, Calif. military induction center. The FBI related the incident to the blast in Washington Wednesday.

# State Dept. bombed — radical group claims deed

by Henry Keys  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — A bomb exploded in the State Department early Wednesday, and thousands of government workers were evacuated from other federal buildings after telephoned threats.

A radical organization called the Weather Underground took responsibility for the bomb explosion and placement of 14 sticks of dynamite taken from a military induction center at Oakland, Calif.

The State Department explosion in a third-floor restroom occurred shortly before 1 a.m. EST, after a series of telephone calls and notes of warning from the Weatherman organization to the news media.

The blast resulted in collapsed walls, dislodged ceiling tiles, shattered windows and broken water pipes but no injuries.

A District of Columbia policeman, Charles Lightner, said the damage had been created by "a damn big bomb . . . not one of those blow-the-lid-off things."

It was on the same floor as offices for the Agency for International Development,

which the Weatherman group claimed as a target. The warning notes protested continued U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, and came a few days after President Ford announced plans to provide an additional \$520 million for South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger inspected the damage when he arrived at work later in the morning, and spokesman Robert Anderson told reporters Kissinger had been relieved that there were no deaths or injuries in this totally senseless act.

Director Clarence Kelley announced the FBI is investigating, and said that the Weather Underground has claimed a series of bombings since 1970, including the one at the U.S. Capitol March 3, 1971, the Pentagon May 19, 1972, the ITT Building in New York City Sept. 28, 1973, and others in California and Pennsylvania last year.

He said the Weather Underground membership includes Berardine Dohn, Jeffrey Carl Jones, Mark William Rudd, Kathie Boudin, Robert Roth, Cathlyn Wilkerson, Leonard Handelsman, and Howard Machtinger, all wanted by the FBI for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

# House, Senate merge energy panels

by Richard H. Growald  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — House and Senate Democratic leaders agreed Wednesday to an unprecedented merger of policy-making panels on economic-energy alternatives.

But President Ford spread the word that while he believes both sides want to avoid a confrontation on the program, "There is nothing at the moment to compromise with."

White House spokesman Ron Nessen told

reporters Ford and his congressional liaison aides are busy telephoning key congressmen to promote approval for the President's overall approach based on income tax cuts combined with new tariffs on imported oil.

Ford met for an hour Wednesday afternoon with Chairman Al Ullman, D-Ore., of the House Ways and Means Committee, where all tax legislation must originate. Also attending were Max Friedersdorf, presidential assistant for legislative affairs, and John March, presidential counselor.

The meeting was not scheduled and there was no report on what was discussed.

In the Capitol, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield suggested to Speaker Carl Albert that the Senate policy committee and the House steering committee meet jointly to develop a unified alternative to the Ford proposals.

At the same time, he warned that it is likely to be some time before the Democrats can come up with an alternative to the increase which Ford has imposed on oil import taxes

to conserve energy — the most serious issue in dispute between them.

"These things can't be done overnight," he said.

Ford, who gave his Cabinet a preview of the 1976 budget early Wednesday, was reported by Nessen to be pleased by initial congressional action on his income tax cut proposals, but believes his method combining a rebate on 1974 taxes with a 1975 tax cut is better and wishes they would move faster.

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