

**The original documents are located in Box 19, folder “Olson, Frank - Private Relief Bill for Family of: S. 3035” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 6-14-76

TO:

PAT FOWLAND

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle



For Your Information

Per Our Conversation

Other:



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

JUN 12 1976

June 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLES LEPPERT  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *dlm for*  
SUBJECT: Private Relief Bill for the Olson  
Family (S. 3035/H. R. 12177)

As you may be aware, about a month ago the Senate passed a private relief bill in the amount of \$1.25 million for the benefit of the survivors of Dr. Frank Olson (the man who died as a result of the CIA experiments with LSD). This bill is now before the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee, chaired by Congressman Flowers. Would you be kind enough to make inquiry with Chairman Rodino, Chairman Flowers and Congressmen Hutchinson and Morehead (the ranking Republicans on the full committee and subcommittee) in order to determine the chances for action on the proposal in this session.

The President personally supports the measure.

Thank you.

Talbot  
Talbot Gen Coffey - 6/17  
Ken Logans 6/17

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN LAZARUS

THROUGH: MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
CHARLES LEPPERT, JR.

FROM: PATRICK ROWLAND *PR*

SUBJECT: Relief of Olson Family - S. 3035/H.R. 12177

Earlier I had indicated by telephone to you that Rep. Walter Flowers (D-Ala.), Chairman of the Judiciary Claims Subcommittee, wanted to hold hearings on this bill before sending it on to the full committee. However, in talking with Bill Shattuck, staff majority counsel, I learned that Flowers is having second thoughts because of the heavy House schedule.

I will remain in close contact with Shattuck and will let you know of Flowers decision as soon as it is made.

Congressman Carlos Moorhead has strong feelings on the \$1.25 million involved and is not even sure a private bill should be considered.

Alan Coffey, staff minority counsel, told me that he would once again review the bill with Mr. Moorhead. However, contact by you with Carlos would prove helpful.

*file*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 6-18-76

TO: Rowland ✓  
Loeffler \_\_\_\_\_  
Kendall \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenckes \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Charlie Leppert

Please handle ✓

Please see me \_\_\_\_\_

For Your Information \_\_\_\_\_

For Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Other:



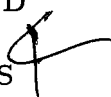
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

JUN 28 1976

June 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLES LEPPERT  
PAT ROWLAND

FROM: KEN LAZARUS 

SUBJECT: H. R. 12177, Private Relief Bill  
for the Olson Family

In accordance with your recommendation, I today met with Congressman Moorhead regarding the subject bill. Mr. Moorhead indicated that he thought the bill provided far too much in the amount of compensation (\$1.25 million). His thought was that an award in the neighborhood of \$300,000 to \$400,000 was more appropriate. However, he did indicate that, although he would vote in support of an amendment to reduce the amount, he would likely be in a very distinct minority and that the measure would meet with a broad base of general support in his subcommittee and in the full House Judiciary Committee.

Our problem now is one of timing. The Olson family is facing a statute of limitations bar to their claim which will force them to file suit early next month unless they see some movement of this legislation in the House. In the event there is some progress in the House, they have indicated that they would enter into a stipulation with the Department of Justice regarding the statute of limitations, notwithstanding the fact that this would be a very tenuous legal solution.

I would appreciate your assistance and advice in attempting to have the matter entertained next week by the Judiciary Claims Subcommittee. Thank you.

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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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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