

Mothers Fight Threat to Mongolism Research

Group With Afflicted Children Opposes Cut in U.S. Fund to Investigate Disease

WASHINGTON (AP)—An organization of mothers of mongoloid children has mounted a national letter-writing campaign, protesting what it terms a threat to a promising program against mongolism.

The program is reported to be the only one of its type still in existence in the United States.

Mrs. Donald G. Wyman of Alexandria, Va., mother of a 4-year-old mongoloid boy, and spokesman for the organization of 25 Washington-area mothers called Mothers of Young Mongoloids, is leading the fight.

Mrs. Wyman said in an interview her group was concerned that a "proposed cut" in appropriations to the government's National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. She said this would "effectively close down" a human experimental drug program against at least one aspect of mongolism being conducted by Dr. Mary Coleman of Children's Hospital in Washington.

Mental Affliction

Mongolism is a malady characterized by serious mental retardation as well as by physical defects including poor muscle tone and coordination; a broad face, flat or stubby nose, and obliquely set eyes.

Dr. Coleman declined to discuss details of her program, but it was learned authoritatively it involves use of an experimental drug duplicating a natural chemical deficient in the brains of mongoloid victims.

Mrs. Wyman said Dr. Coleman, like various others, is threatened with a cut in a House-approved appropriations bill currently pending before a Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.).

She said her organiza-

tion sent messages to local organizations for retarded children throughout the country — and to other "friends"—suggesting the following message to Magnuson and other members of his subcommittee:

"I protest the proposed cut in appropriations to the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, allocated through the National Institutes of Health and budgeted by the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

"This cut would effectively close down the last program in this country doing medical research on a phase of . . . mongolism

"Dr. Mary Coleman, Children's Hospital, Washington, D.C., has spent three years replacing a deficient brain chemical — serotonin — in mongoloid babies . . . after . . . 20 years of laboratory and animal work.

"This human experimentation has resulted in definite improvement in muscle tone and coordination. The I.Q. (intelligence quotient) results are inconclusive as yet.

"Please allow her the time and money to finish her work."

Asked the results of the campaign, Mrs. Wyman said her organization did