

TITLE: DOROTHY PROCTOR RADIO DOCUMENTARY

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(Avril Benoit)

It is known that the US government used prisoners as guinea pigs for often horrific experiments conducted in the name of commerce and science. Now there’s growing concern over experiments on Canadian prisoners, experiments in sensory deprivation in which prisoners were placed in solitary confinement for weeks at a time.

Experiments in pain tolerance, using electric shocks, and other experiments in which prisoners were given massive doses of LSD and other drugs without their knowledge nor their consent.

Corrections Canada has investigated the matter and now a federal report calls the experiments unethical, even by the standards of the day. One former inmate has launched a multi million dollar lawsuit against the doctors who used her as a human guinea pig. And against Corrections Canada for allowing it to occur.

The woman and one of the doctors she is suing spoke with our contributing editor, Rosie Rowbotham who joins me now. Good morning Rosie.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Good morning Avril.

(Avril Benoit)

So when did these experiments occur?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well they started in the 1960s here in Canada, and went as far as the 1970s or mid 1970s , and it depends if, which offender you’re talking to.

(Avril Benoit)

Which prisons did they occur in?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

They happened in Prison For Women, East Cell Block inside Kingston Penitentiary and Millhaven.

(Avril Benoit)

How many prisoners were involved as the guinea pigs?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well we're not sure of the exact number but it was safe to say several dozens alone here in the Kingston area.

(Avril Benoit)

Well you spoke with several of them. What do they say about their experiences?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well I talked to both Canadian and American prisoners Avril, and some are ex-cons and some are still serving time. A few of the Canadians, one in particular has spent some time in Rahway Prison in New Jersey, his tale is a psycho tropic drugs and eventually he has liver, cirrhosis of the liver now and is back in Canada and is terminal, he's dying.

Another Canadian still in, is doing time today, he talks about Millhaven East Cell Block and he talks about sensory deprivation, shock therapy and many, many types of drug experimentations. We talk about LSD experimentations. We're going to hear from one of those prisoners, a woman named Dorothy Proctor in a few minutes. But I wanted to talk a little about America first.

(Avril Benoit)

Which is where the controversy started. Well what, what is the, how would you compare then what happened here to what happened in the states?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well in the United States there was a lot of experimentation with the pharmaceutical companies. They were using dioxins as a skin cream on many of the prisoners. Starting in their 20s , 30s and 40s. Cancer cell injections, many things.

In Canada the emphasis was more on drugs, especially LSD, electro shock therapy and isolation. But the important thing is that we came along and borrowed a lot of the ideas from the United States because it is a perfect control group, a prison population, for several reasons.

They can, instead of the old folks home or a mental institution, they can report what happens to these drugs. And so the experimentation gives them some results, and then some results they can follow.

(Avril Benoit)

You mean cause they're lucid enough...

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Yes.

(Avril Benoit)

... to tell you what they're experiencing.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

And they can control, the area is controlled of where they're going and when they go to sleep and what they're eating.

(Avril Benoit)

And they can't leave?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

No. We have a, we have a completely controlled group.

(Avril Benoit)

But was it also, was it also the fact that many people at the time were absolutely unsympathetic with prisoners as many are still today.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well I would say it was back in the times in the 30s and 40s, I don't think anybody even thought, give it a second thought about prisons or what was happening to them. Nobody was talking about it.

So when I spoke to an American author, Allen Hornblum, he's written a book about experiments on the US prisoners called Acres of Skin. He went to a Holmesburg prison in Philadelphia in the early 1970s as a literacy teacher. And this is what he saw there.

(Allen Hornblum)

One of the things that immediately shocked me was the great number of inmates who had bandages and adhesive tape on their chests and their backs and their arms. And I thought to myself, is this from a prison riot, was there a fight on a cell block. I had no idea what it was.

And the next day a guard told me, he said oh, that's no big deal, that's just the experiments for the University of Pennsylvania. They're doing a perfume study. And it turned out that it was part of a very large research program by a famous doctor at the University of Pennsylvania.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Now I understand the doctor, the famous doctor you're talking about was Dr. Albert Kligman.

(Allen Hornblum)

Correct.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Now how did he start off in Holmesburg. I understood this thing started off innocently enough.

(Allen Hornblum)

That's right. Periodically there would be outbreaks of athlete's foot which you can imagine in a large unhealthy environment. Well either a doctor or a technician or a pharmacist at the prison called Dr. Kligman at the University and said we have this problem, would you come up and take a look at it.

Well he did come up there, and when he walked through the front gates of Holmesburg, I believe he was amazed by what he saw. As he said, all he saw before him were acres of skin. He no longer in my estimation saw them as people or even prisoners, he saw them as acres of skin

which would be perfect for dermatologic study.

He did in fact say, quote, that he felt like a farmer seeing a fertile field for the first time. And that these men represented an anthropoid colony perfect for dermatologic testing. So he basically set up shop there and it ran from the very early 50s to the mid 70s.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well what stands out in your mind as the worst thing that happened there in your memories?

(Allen Hornblum)

Well, there are a number of them. One of the things that makes the Holmesburg story unique is that so much was done there, it was really like the K-Mart of investigatory operations.

Holmesburg was you know like a university of research. They ran experiments on a cross section of things, on thousands of inmates for nearly 25 years. A lot of it was very innocuous stuff, product testing, hair dyes, lotions, detergents, athletes foot medication, eye drops, toothpaste, things of that nature.

Now he also did some more serious phase one testing of new drugs that were coming on the market. But even worse than that and far more dangerous was the fact that Dr. Kligman was applying dioxin to the faces and backs of prisoners, injecting prisoners with radioactive isotopes. And for many years, injecting prisoners with various chemical warfare agents for the army and the CIA.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Now that wasn't just happening in Holmesburg. From reading your book, you talk about this expanding to other parts of the country.

(Allen Hornblum)

That's right. Just about every state in America had at least one prison that was acting as a source for medical experimentation. You tend to see one prison focussing on one particular malady or problem over a short period of time.

Pennsylvania, the state that I'm calling from, unfortunately had in my estimation the worst reputation. We had you know double to five times as many prisons involved. And that is probably because the area of Philadelphia and south Jersey is such a hotbed for pharmaceutical companies and medical schools.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

But some of these are horror stories, taking cell injections of cancer in patients in Ohio state.

(Allen Hornblum)

That's correct.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Having their testicles stuck in radioactive water to test for sterilization.

(Allen Hornblum)

Correct.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company checking on liver, bladder cancer.

(Allen Hornblum)

Correct.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Seem to be out of, out of the control.

(Allen Hornblum)

Well I think that's probably a good way to characterize it, and that's one of the things that I do find so frustrating and outrageous. At the end of the war it was the United States, not Russia, not England, not France, that put the Nazi doctors on trial for what they did at Bergen-Belsen, Auschwitz, Ravensbrück.

We harangued those Nazi doctors, we lectured them, we found them guilty, we ultimately hung seven of them, but at the same time we were doing that, in our own country we were injecting plutonium and uranium into unwitting hospital patients.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Didn't the Nazis say that in the trials in Nuremberg to the Americans?

(Allen Hornblum)

They did bring up the fact that the United States had used prisoners as test material. It surprised a lot of folks on the American side because they were not aware of it, but the Nazi doctors and their legal counsel became aware of it during the trial and they used it as exculpatory material.

I'm not sure it did them any good, but what's worse in my estimation, after the trial we ended up doing more of it rather than less of it.

(Avril Benoit)

American author Allen Hornblum talking with Rosie Rowbotham about his book, *Acres of Skin, Human Experiments at Holmesburg Prison*. It's published by Routledge.

Rosie, when Canadians started their own research on prisoners, did anyone raise any ethical objections?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

No. At the time if they did who would care if they did speak out. These prisoners again were a perfect group to do the experimentations on, especially when it comes to psychiatry.

(Avril Benoit)

You interviewed one woman, Dorothy Proctor, who has now launched a \$5 million lawsuit against the doctors and Corrections Canada. Tell me about her.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well she was born in Nova Scotia, she had a fairly tough upbringing. Her first federal crime, adult crime, she was sentenced to three years for robbery at the age of 17. She was sent to the Prison For Women in 1961. This is what happened to her.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Being a young girl, and being labelled as a juvenile delinquent, I behaved as such. And they used that, they meaning the authorities, used my behaviour as an excuse to label me a sociopath or a psychopath and that was just a label, that was just language so that they could put on paper so that they could legitimately receive funding for the experiment.

Now I know that I was being primed with sensory deprivation to prepare me for the other experiments. At that time I didn't know, I was just told it was for disciplinary reasons. And I was put in the hole for all sorts of violations.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So this is solitary segregation.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Solitary segregation. When I would be in the hole for 20 days or 20 some days, but actually I used to go to the hole for 52 days bread and water.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well tell us what that was like being there for 52 days.

(Dorothy Proctor)

That was, what was it like? Well, at my age, actually Rosie I'm glad I was the age that I was, because I was young and ignorant, probably didn't have enough sense to realize what was going on.

All I know is that it was frightening, I thought I was going to die. I thought you know I mean I can't live 52 days bread and water. Every third day I would get a bowl of porridge and a boiled potato. And I wouldn't be let out.

And so what I would do to occupy myself, I would do exercises, I would sing, I would dance, I had visitors sort of, spiders and you know insects and...

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Now these were real insects that you would talk to.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Oh yes, this is before, yes.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

This is before the LSD.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Yes, this was before the LSD. No, these were real insects. You know ants, little things that you find in these places you know.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

I know, because you have to amuse yourself.

(Dorothy Proctor)

You have to amuse yourself. And I never thought of a future, because right then and there, there was just absolutely no future, there was no future to think about.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay. Now what about the actual LSD, when did this come in? They started this sensory deprivation.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Also electric shock.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay, before we go to LSD, lets talk about the electrical, electrical shock.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Okay, I had electric shock often. I would say when they began, maybe two, three times a week. And that was within my first year. And that was combined with going to the hole. I would come out of the hole and of course I would react. I mean look what they were doing to me. Sometimes I would be physically, I would physically engage with another inmate, and so any infraction, I would be put in the hole, but it seemed strange to me Rosie that the other inmates that I would engage with were never put in the hole. It was just me.

So I believe that I was targeted from the very beginning. I don't want to play a race card but I really can't help but think that perhaps I was targeted because first of all I was very, very young. I think I was the youngest inmate there. I didn't have any family support. I didn't come from a background of influence or power. And plus I'm native and black Canadian.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

After these electrical convulsion therapy, what was done with, with the LSD?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Okay, after the electric shocks, the sensory deprivation, I believe they were preparing me. Mr. Eveson, the prison psychologist, used to come down, now this is where I'm connecting the dots, I believe you know brainwashing was an issue here. He would come down, he was a soft spoken man, non threatening in his body language or behaviour. And he would come down to the hole

and he would speak to me like Dorothy, I'm making arrangements to have you released and please try to cooperate with me and I will try to help you, almost a Stockholm syndrome started to set in with me.

So he would be the person to come and like release me, rescue me so to speak. And would be very soft spoken with me and kind acting.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So he's your friend.

(Dorothy Proctor)

So now he's my friend, you see. So here came Mr., now before Mr. Eveson I was also seeing Dr. Scott.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Now who is Dr. Scott?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Dr. Scott was the psychiatrist. And so now Mr. Eveson comes down to the hole and he has a student with him, a lady psych student from Queens University. And she's to take notes. And he pulls up a chair for her and him and they are in the sort of the outside the hallway section of the cell.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So you're talking through bars.

(Dorothy Proctor)

It's through the bars. Now I'm in the hole on the floor, no mattress, just a blanket. And I've been taken out of the cell that has a commode, I'm now in the cell which is a hole in the floor.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Oh, for your toilet.

(Dorothy Proctor)

For my toilet. And that had backed up, so I'm also in my own waste. And the stench you can imagine.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

You set the ambience.

(Dorothy Proctor)

Yes. So he comes down, so he presents me with this oh, you know we want to help you so much, we want you to you know correct yourself and we want you to be able to rehabilitate yourself. And I have here a pill or some medication or something that just might help you. And please Dorothy take it for me. I can help you, you know this whole thing, this whole I'm going to rescue you, I'm your friend and you're worthy saving, so just cooperate with me scenario, okay.

I don't think it was 15, 20 minutes later before I had experienced the inferno. What's his name, Dante's inferno. I mean it was, obviously I can't get out, I can't run away, I'm locked in a cell and the walls start to move in towards me and melt. The bars turn to snakes, there was an awful physical vibration in my body. It was just awful, it was just awful.

And of course any mind that I had to think in reality, I just thought I've gone mad. You know I've, that's it.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

How long did these LSD experiences go on, these experiments?

(Dorothy Proctor)

I clearly remember over ten sessions. But we could only find documents that support I think three. Now that's fine with me, I'm not going to play a numbers game here because one time, ten times, fifty times it should have never happened.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Did anybody, did Dr. Scott or any other doctors or medical staff at the Prison For Women any time tell you why they were doing this? Do they have any justification to do these experiments? I mean what do they tell you?

(Dorothy Proctor)

They, why, they have no reason to tell me anything. I was a nothing, I was just something to experiment on. They probably discussed it among themselves but it was never discussed with me, I was not worthy of that respect.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Was there not informed consent? Did they ask you to sign any forms?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Nothing.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Saying that, that you were aware of what they are doing and that they had permission to do these things?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Absolutely nothing. They took permission, they took charge of me and my life and my brain.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well tell us more about Dr. George Scott, he's the man that really actually ran these experiments. What was he like?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Well I don't have a clear memory, like I have a clear memory of the existence of a Dr. George

Scott. I don't have a clear memory of interacting with him. The only thing I have to support that are his own letters, documents referring to sessions with me. They gave me a, you know those tests that they give you, those psychological tests. And I was highly intelligent according to Dr. Scott. Above average in intelligence in his words, above average in intelligence and fairly gifted.

Now Rosie, why would you take a child whose above average in intelligence and fairly gifted and experiment on them and take a risk of making them mad, of causing them to be insane. Not only that, they created a drug addict. I had never done drugs and I walked out of Kingston Prison For Women with \$47 in my pocket, a one way ticket to Montreal and a full blown drug addict. I remained a drug addict for 24 years and all that that means.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Did you do drugs in prison, contraband drugs that were in prison like heroin as well when, after you started doing these experiments?

(Dorothy Proctor)

I didn't have to do contraband drugs, I was, I had my own little drugstore with Dr. Scott and Mr. Eveson. They were giving me drugs.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

More than just LSD?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Oh yes, yes. I had LSD and I had pharmaceutical drugs.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Psycho tropic drugs or you don't know?

(Dorothy Proctor)

Oh, I don't, I can't, I couldn't even pronounce the names. We have lists of them in our documents.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Do you have any lasting physical effects?

(Dorothy Proctor)

I have flashbacks, I have, I have to live alert 24 hours a day. Like most people just sort of can take their days and their movements and their actions for granted, I can't, I'm always, I'm always making sure that I'm stepping the right way, I'm doing, but it's not noticeable to anyone who is watching me. It's something that I've learned to live with and I handle.

I don't go into deep sleeps. I've been drug free for 11 years and it took me about the first five years before I could get some clarity and understand what was wrong with me. These are things that will live with me forever. And plus my life has been drastically altered. I was, I mean my own government created a drug addict. I just can't get my mind around that.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Have you learned to forgive, have you found some spiritual centre through all this?

(Dorothy Proctor)

I don't have a problem with forgiving. I forgive them, I forgive everybody because I want to be forgiven so I have to forgive. But I understand that with forgiveness comes accountability. I mean they still have to be accountable to me whether I forgive them or not.

(Avril Benoit)

Boy it really sounds like she went through chemical torture through all that time. It's a wonder that she pulled out of it at all. How is Dorothy Proctor doing now Rosie?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

She's fine, she lives a very careful and limited life Avril. She has claustrophobia. Incidentally when I was even doing the interview she felt that the interview room at the studio was closing in on her. So I was sensitive to that as well and tried to get the interview over as quickly as possible. But she's determined to get justice done and she wants to bring this to a close.

(Avril Benoit)

Well we're going to pause here for 90 seconds of local news and weather. And when we return, we'll hear your interview with Dr. George Scott, the psychiatrist who oversaw the LSD experiments on Dorothy Proctor at P4W. I'm Avril Benoit.

(Pause)

(Avril Benoit)

This morning continues. I'm Avril Benoit, our contributing editor Rosie Rowbotham is here with the story of experiments on Canadian prisoners in the 1960s through the 1970s. Before the news break Rosie, we heard from Dorothy Proctor who is suing Dr. George Scott and others for \$5 million for the experiments they conducted on her. You met with Dr. Scott?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Yes, I did. I met him north of Kingston around Sealey's Bay, he had an old farmhouse, he was standing outside there to meet us. He's 82 years old so he's getting rather old now. He took us in his back room where he had some of his old psychiatric books and Karl Sandberg book on the wall, he had an old space heater going, you could hear it maybe in the background.

And we had a good chat for an hour and a half or so. He's been stripped of his license to practice medicine by the College of Physicians and Surgeons for unrelated matter, sexual impropriety with two other, two female patients.

(Avril Benoit)

Who were prisoners?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

No, this is from his practice on the street cause the man was involved and had his own

psychiatric private hospital. And he was successfully sued for \$400,000 in connection with one of those lawsuits. He refused to discuss the Dorothy Proctor case specifically with me. Although he did agree to talk in general terms about what went on at Prison For Women and other prisons.

Dr. George Scott:

The, to start off with, I'd like you to know that my interest in psychiatry has been from when I was the age of probably 15. You see when GW2 ended, clinical psychiatry was just about beginning to become a thing. And then was gradually going uphill through difficulties, through ideas, in 1960 it was LSD, diethylaluma, it was, it's a psychoactive one. We're being sued for it by prison inmate.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Can you talk in a general way about, about this LSD, I don't want any specifics, what was that about?

Dr. George Scott:

Way back in 1960 a researcher found that the alcoholics when they were deeply involved in alcohol, they would come out with no memory at all. They wouldn't remember what the hell happened. So they found that after the treatment periods in an alcoholic, that they had some type of awareness of something, you know there's something, it's like a pea being in your pocket and you eventually being to say Jesus Christ, my, I got a sore seat and I don't know what's going on. Well there was something in their mind that was burning them.

And then they were more vulnerable to say I remember when I was a little kid. You know the doors are open.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So LSD opened their doors inside.

Dr. George Scott:

Yes, through the, the set of doors were, yes, no psychiatrist was muttering at them, but that other life came out. And it was proven that 30 to 40% of the real serious alcoholics in the large metropolitan centres like in New York or Pittsburgh and other places, they would be improved by it. And all the experiments in LSD finished off about 1982 or '83.

See the 1960, '61 everybody's ears were going up about LSD and the dangers of it and all the other stuff was going on.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Back in 1960, '61?

Dr. George Scott:

Yes. Yes. And so that, that it became a problem. So LSD ran it's gamut, and LSD is now just, just a drug.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Lets talk about sensory deprivation, you did those studies. What did they help you say with, okay, lets do it with inmates. What did sensory deprivation teach mankind or psychiatry?

Dr. George Scott:

Well, that actually started in Montreal where a research psychiatrist isolated people in big, like balloons, like a balloon that you could walk into and then the balloon on the outside of it so that they lived in isolation for a period of time. And the one research we did, we did and I had the overt privilege of saying that I'm being told that I was boss of the whole thing, but Paul Jandra was the real able guy, he was....

(Rosie Rowbotham)

This is <inaudible> you're talking about?

Dr. George Scott:

Yes. Paul and I and several other people did the paper, and the results of the paper were that more than a week or two weeks of isolation in people who are already vulnerable, you see the inmate, he ain't normal. Because he lives in a pathological environment. If you live with rattlesnakes you're going to either get rattlesnake venom and be able to bite the rattlesnake or whatever. So that, that what happened was that the people that I think we had twelve people and they found that, that the longer they were there, the more they wanted to stay and sleep.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

When you said you had twelve, how did you decide who, how did you select those twelve people?

Dr. George Scott:

Purely by deciding what would be the standards. Anybody who gets involved in the research program, they had, it has to be explained and they have to sign that they are doing this of their own free will and under their free control. And that's the way it is. There was no forcing ever, I mean it's not my line. You see my kind of personality, if I can't talk them into it, I might as well give up. But if they need it, I'll go all the way.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Were they told though what was going on?

Dr. George Scott:

Oh sure. And they would know the whole show, yes.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So did they sign saying....

Dr. George Scott:

Oh yes, absolutely. And there was no discomfort really.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

And for any other studies, did everybody know what they were, they were...

Dr. George Scott:

Oh yes, nothing could be done. Now the one that's up in the air now is I can't talk about that.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Is that the LSD study you were talking about?

Dr. George Scott:

Yes. But I'll tell you, there was a program...

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Can you just, can you tell us this about that, how were they selected?

Dr. George Scott:

I had nothing to do with selection, nothing.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay.

Dr. George Scott:

See, I was the boss man, so I get shit on, I'm sorry, I get shoved around as the father of all this, the advice.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Somebody has to be responsible. Who...

Dr. George Scott:

Yes, well all I had to do is work the money and make sure that, that limits of research were all looked after.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

What did you as a psychiatrist, what did you learn from, from any experience you had with any of these studies?

Dr. George Scott:

Well see LSD is not news in the medical context anywhere in the world at this point. Not at all.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So you would say, so certain drugs you would still use and psychiatry still uses.

Dr. George Scott:

Oh yes.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

But LSD you say ran it's gamut and can't be used today because there is nothing from it. Did you learn, did you learn anything from it?

Dr. George Scott:

Well you see I actually was not involved. I was, you know I was sitting at the head of the class. But we worked with the Department of Psychology at the university and that was their part. The psychologists were involved greatly in that. And their work they did was exceptionally fine. There was nothing about them that could really be questioned. I was more for the physical side of psychiatric part.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

This is the LSD stuff.

Dr. George Scott:

No that was, that was done through a very capable guy who had the research background that he could allow LSD to be given for therapeutic purposes.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

This is in Canada?

Dr. George Scott:

In, yes, in this area.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Do we know who that is?

Dr. George Scott:

Oh you could find out.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay, did you ever work at Prison For Women?

Dr. George Scott:

I worked in every prison.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

When you hear about this thing about the LSD in Prison For Women, what's your perspective, what do you think of that? I mean what do you feel about what people...

Dr. George Scott:

One troublemaker out of twelve is one troublemaker out of ten, that's an 8% casualty rate. That's not bad. And that girl that, or any person that goes through a system and 30 years later feels that they are, have been poorly done by, it's what they say. I've got nothing to do with it.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay, but the other people that did the LSD are, you're saying that they probably have no problems?

Dr. George Scott:

Well you'd hear from them if they were, yes.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay. I just want to, just to clarify a few things, you said that you were not involved with any LSD studies of psycho tropic drugs in the Prison For Women or Millhaven.

Dr. George Scott:

No. No, no, no. I mean that, the whole business, the inmates are being experimented on...

(Rosie Rowbotham)

That's what I'm hearing and I'm...

Dr. George Scott:

That's goddamned nonsense. I'm telling you, and I've been there for about 35 years and sure, I used electroshock when it was needed, I'd do intravenous on some very difficult offences. I would do narco analysis if the, if the patient wanted a narco. And I got to be, I did more than 200 narcotics during the period I was in the prison and it was always...

(Rosie Rowbotham)

What's a narco, what is that?

Dr. George Scott:

Narco analysis, you use pentothal and ritalin together, one follows the other, and the, this is one technique I used in my private practice. For instance one boy came in who had been charged with murdering a lady in the house he was living in. And he was a good lad. And he couldn't remember a thing that happened the night of the party, not a damned thing. He said I might have killed her, I might not, I don't know.

So I used pentothal. Pentothal is the stuff they put you to sleep with when you have an operation. Same thing. And then you give them a stimulant when they're closed down. And for some reason I wasn't getting anywhere. And so I gave him ten treatments and I finally got his pentothal up to, oh <inaudible> 400 milligrams, that's quite a bit. And he went right to sleep, of course I had to increase his ritalin to wake him up again. And nothing happened except out of this corner of his eye a little tear. The tear was just as dramatic as that. This little tear just rolled down there and he says that's funny. God now I can remember.

Then he said, then I went into the bedroom, went down three steps into the bedroom into, and opened the door and I saw my brother with blood on his hand just leaving the room. And he says and I think, I think she was on the bed. And he was exonerated from everything and that was, that was one of the most interesting and the most satisfying twelve bloody injections. I'm not big hero by Jesus by I was glad that...

(Rosie Rowbotham)

So you felt good about your...

Dr. George Scott:

Well I, yes, it's one of those things. You win some, you lose some.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay. You've always, you told us you consider yourself a rebel.

Dr. George Scott:

Yes.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Tell us why.

Dr. George Scott:

Oh I can get in more shit at any time then enough.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Well when you look back at what, when you're looking back at your life and when you bit through, how does it, how does it all sit with you?

Dr. George Scott:

I couldn't be better off than I am. You know, better off. I mean I'm happy with myself. I don't give a shit.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Do you have any regrets?

Dr. George Scott:

No. None at all. Come wind blow tide at least we die with harness on our back. That's the way I feel about it. Right now, and I've been in shit with the Royal College. But I've got news for them. But anyhow, that's part of the ball game. And I was telling my wife that the chicken shit I got on with the Royal College, I said it couldn't matter less to me. One thing it did, I made a good living, damned good living. And I wouldn't have had enough brains to stop if I hadn't gotten tied into this situation, I'd still be practising medicine and I'd be a useless character just practising medicine. I'm enjoying life now. I aim to maybe go for another ten years I guess. I'm only 82 now and piss on it.

(Avril Benoit)

Boy Rosie, after everything Dorothy Proctor told you of her experience and knowing that the federal government's report into all of this said Dr. Scott conducted LSD experiments on 23 women as well as isolation experiments on a dozen, what did you make of him?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

That is a tough question. Avril, when I went there, I didn't know what really to expect, but I felt that I would feel anger and I would say to myself you know be professional and do your job and hold it in. And from the moment I got there and saw him, you know proud, defiant, you know maybe that was some of the things I liked about him. But at the same time, I knew a lot of the

people that went through his experiments or under his, his care.

And I know he has to show accountability and responsibility. But at the same time I, I couldn't bring myself to hate the guy. I felt sorry for him in some way. And I felt good when I talked to Dorothy Proctor because as a victim, alleged victim of Dr. Scott, she showed compassion too. But again...

(Avril Benoit)

Yes, she said she forgave him.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

But wants accountability and responsibility. So that's what I felt and it was really difficult.

(Avril Benoit)

As far as you know, are these experiments still going on?

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Okay, well talking with the American author, Allen Hornblum, he says that there's potential of still happening in the smaller prisons in the United States. And I can't speak to that. But in Canada I can and I don't believe so today. I don't think it's happening or I would have heard about it.

(Avril Benoit)

Well thanks very much.

(Rosie Rowbotham)

Thank you.

(Avril Benoit)

That's our contributing editor, Rosie Rowbotham.

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