

MP's wife 'tortured'

Court told of tests with LSD

By JENNIFER ROBINSON
of The Gazette

A Winnipeg psychiatrist said yesterday the wife of federal New Democratic Party MP David Orlikow was subjected to "psychological torture" at Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute, alleged to be the site of secret brainwashing experiments on unwitting patients for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Dr. Gordon Lamberd of Winnipeg testified yesterday in Quebec Superior Court that Velma Orlikow, 64, suffered irreparable damage from the brainwashing experiments conducted on her between 1956 and 1964.

Orlikow is suing the Royal Victoria Hospital for about \$80,000 for damages allegedly resulting from treatment received from Dr. Douglas Ewen Cameron, former director of the institute, the psychiatric wing of the hospital. Cameron was killed in a mountaineering accident in 1967.

Cameron's experiments were allegedly known as Subproject 68 — the largest behavior control project in the brainwashing research program, called MK Ultra, operated by the CIA.

Orlikow alleges she was used as a guinea pig for unethical experiments that left her with permanent brain damage.

During four hours of emotional, highly descriptive testimony yesterday, Orlikow said she was forced regularly to take lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and at least a dozen other controversial drugs.

"Once I thought I was a squirrel running around in a cage unable to escape," she said.

"Sometimes I thought I would die."

She told Judge Marcel Belleville she was drugged daily and expected to write down all her thoughts as she listened to tapes played over and over for up to five hours a day. The tapes were recordings of con-



Velma Orlikow leaves court with her MP husband David

versations she had with Cameron.

"I really tried hard," she said. But after several months of listening to the same tapes she could only write "lost, lost, lost" over and over again.

She said Cameron did not want her to go back to her husband and daughter who lived in Winnipeg at the time. She said he told her to take an apartment in Montreal when she was released from the hospital.

The suit alleges that Cameron received subsidies from a CIA front group, the Society to Investigate Human Ecology, to carry out his experiments.

Orlikow said she was never told what the medical staff was doing

to her. She said she was forced several times to dress skimpily and be filmed by Cameron's assistant, who would call out instructions to her like "sit down" or "stand up."

Orlikow's lawyer, Phil Cutler, said that CIA documents used the code name Miriam to refer to Orlikow in the brainwashing experiments, which were part of a \$25-million mind control program to find ways of breaking down enemy agents and manipulating behavior.

Orlikow and several other patients suspected to have been treated by Cameron are also each suing the CIA for \$1 million in damages. That case is before U.S. courts.

Hearings here continue today.