

Ewen Cameron

November 24, 1992

Editor
Letters to the Editor Column
The Toronto Star
One Yonge Street
Toronto, ON/M5E 1E6

Re "Compensation" to
Canadian Brainwash Survivors

Editor:

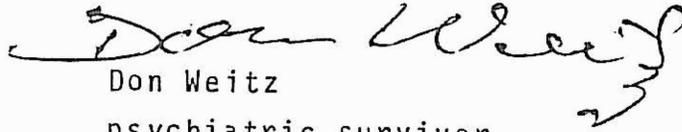
The \$100,000 "compensation" payoff the Mulroney government recently awarded Linda Macdonald and other courageous survivors of psychiatrist Ewen Cameron's brainwashing experiments seriously insults and grossly undervalues their incredible pain, suffering, losses and permanent disabilities ("Brainwash victims to get compensation," Nov. 18). Although no amount of money can begin to make up for their brain damage and ruined careers directly resulting from Dr. Cameron's "treatments," the \$100,000 figure is a shameful payoff, and I hope some survivors will appeal. This bare minimum amount was first officially mentioned as a recommendation in the Mulroney government's notorious "Cooper Report" (1986), which not only whitewashed the obvious complicity of the CIA but whitewashed and flatly denied the legal and moral responsibilities of the Canadian government, which largely funded Dr. Cameron's crimes against humanity inflicted on over one hundred unsuspecting Canadian inmates in the 1950s and early 1960s.

I understand the willingness of the Canadian survivors to accept this out-of-court settlement after enduring many years of frustration caused by inexcusably long government and court delays and ~~over~~ legal costs. And I am thrilled that survivors such as Linda Macdonald are finally getting their horrendous stories of great personal suffering and courage told in the media, including film.

But I still resent the fact that the Canadian government and Canadian Psychiatric Association, together with the US Government/CIA and American Psychiatric Association, continue to deny their complicity in one of the most horrendous psychiatric crimes of the 20th century. The fact that similar crimes against humanity, under the guise of "treatment" or "restraints", are happening today in virtually every psychiatric facility in

cont'd

Canada and the USA is also covered up or simply not reported in the media, much less investigated. It's time for some real and long-delayed justice, public investigations, and reparations for the hundreds of thousands of other psychiatric survivors being brainwashed("treated") without their knowledge or consent.



Don Weitz

psychiatric survivor

Toronto

Don Weitz
720 Gladstone Ave.
Toronto, ON/M6H 3J4
tel: (416) 532-2731

ECJ - Cameron

December 3, 1992

Editor/Letters
The New York Times
Fax # 212-556-4607

Re: Canadian Brainwashed Survivors
and Dr. Ewen Cameron

Editor:

A few comments and one correction re the recent decision of the Canadian government to "compensate" Linda Macdonald and at least 80 other survivors of psychiatrist Ewen Cameron's monstrous brainwashing experiments carried out without consent in the 1950s and 1960s ("Canada to Pay the Victims of Mind-Altering Treatment," Nov. 19, 1992). The article gives the false impression that Dr. Cameron's experiments were mainly influenced or directed by "Western intelligence agencies" such as the CIA. In fact, Dr. Cameron was inflicting massive amounts of electroshock, neuroleptic drugs, and barbiturates--without his patients' "informed consent"--as part of his "treatment" for "schizophrenia" in the 1950s--before any CIA contact. When the CIA heard about Cameron's "depatterning" methods and experiments, they approached him and offered funding. Cameron eagerly and knowingly accepted this CIA money for roughly three years (1957-1960); it was funneled through the CIA's New York-based front group called The Society For the Investigation of Human Ecology. Cameron's inherently unethical and torturous experiments became part of the CIA's mind-control project code-named MK-ULTRA/Subproject 68. The CIA didn't need to order or influence Cameron to brainwash unsuspecting people--he was already doing it to his many "neurotic" and "schizophrenic" patients for many years. He simply took the money and ran--no questions asked. Most were women.

By the way, Dr. Cameron died in a mountain accident in 1967--not "1977" as reported in your article.

Another shameful bit of history important to remember is that neither the American Psychiatric Association nor the Canadian Psychiatric Association bothered to criticize or censure Dr. Cameron for his experiments, which many other psychiatrists had to know were causing brain damage and

cont'd...

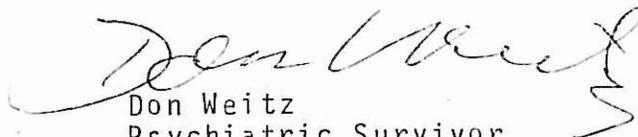
Don Weitz re
Canadian Brainwashed
Survivors &
Dr. Cameron (cont'd)

- 2 -

great psychological harm. The evidence that Cameron was brainwashing/brain-damaging many of his patients was in several psychiatric journal and medical journal articles published in both the United States and Canada, ^{in the 1950s} Obviously, the editors of these journals and the executives of the American Psychiatric Association and Canadian Psychiatric Association chose to remain silent--they still are silent re Cameron's crimes against humanity, which should be compared to some of the barbaric medical experiments carried out in Nazi concentration camps. Yes, Cameron violated the Nuremberg Code

Now, the Canadian government has added insult to injury by paying each of the few survivors only \$100,000 (roughly equivalent to \$75,000 US) for having their brains massively damaged, their careers wrecked and lives ruined. How convenient this out-of-court settlement must be for the Canadian government and its Justice Department, just as it was for a similar settlement awarded ^{by the US government to} nine Canadian survivors in their suit against the CIA. As a result, neither the Canadian government nor the US government has to admit legal or moral responsibility for their obvious complicity in and financial support of these psychiatric crimes.

So much for psychiatric justice--North American Style!


Don Weitz
Psychiatric Survivor
Toronto

Don Weitz
720 Gladstone Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 3J4
CANADA
tel: (416) 532-2731