

Cancer patient to get legal pot

United Press International
LAS CRUCES, N.M. — A New Mexico State University graduate student expects later this week to begin receiving legal supplies of marijuana to ease the side effects of cancer chemotherapy treatments. Dick Lohse, 31, is one of four persons declared eligible to receive the marijuana under the pioneer New Mexico program approved last year.

He has undergone one major and two minor operations for cancer, and says the chemotherapy treatments make him severely ill. "There are two stages to the nausea," he said. "It's not only physical, but also mental."

"If you aren't dead, you wish you were. You just want to be left alone. You sort of shrink up into a shell and wither away."

The first shipment of 1,056 capsules containing concentrated tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana, arrived in the state last week. State officials said delivery of marijuana cigarettes is expected in about two weeks.

The drug was ordered both as capsules and as cigarettes so patients who are approved by the Patient Qualification Review Board can choose the form most agreeable to them, officials said. The drug will be distributed by a pharmacy in Albuquerque.

Lohse, one of two Las Cruces area patients who will join two Albuquerque patients in the pioneer program, said he expects to obtain the capsules by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Officials said the drug is being supplied by the National Institute for Drug Abuse, which grows the marijuana at a research station in Mississippi.

New Mexico is the first state to gain federal approval to use the drug and the 1978 Legislature enacted a statute authorizing a state agency to set up conditions for its issuance.

Legislatures in Louisiana, Florida, and Illinois have approved similar programs, but federal officials have not yet endorsed those programs, State Department of Health and Environment spokesman Marty Spitz said.

Two other states, California and Colorado, are currently considering legislation on the same subject, he added.

Spitz said state officials are still awaiting approval by federal authorities on a program to use the drug to treat intraocular pressure experienced by persons suffering from glaucoma, an eye disease.

Remember Watergate?

Nixon returns to Capitol

United Press International
WASHINGTON — John Mitchell leaves prison on a winter morning. Richard Nixon returns to the White House in a blaze of chandeliers and photo flashes. Watergate is over.

The jails hold no more of the 21 men who went from Nixon's White House or his re-election campaign into prison for the bewildering web of break-ins, cover-ups and related crimes America simply calls "Watergate."

Sam Ervin, the Bible-quoting North Carolina Democrat who ran the Senate Watergate hearings, pops up occasionally in TV ads boosting a credit card. "Do you know me?" he asks. Many probably don't.

Watergate Judge John Sirica is in retirement, nursing a delicate heart and writing his autobiography. Special prosecutor Leon Jaworski is back in private practice after running Congress' Korean bribery probe.

And Nixon himself — driven from office under threat of impeachment and pardoned by Gerald Ford — is blossoming back into public life in a kind of American version of what the Russians used to call "rehabilitation."

Time has treated some Watergate principals with an ironic hand — as

illustrated in the Washington re-emergence of Nixon and his old comrade-in-arms, John Mitchell, the former \$300,000-a-year New York lawyer and U.S. attorney general.

Defending his invitation to Nixon, Carter suggested it is time the nation put Watergate behind it — in Nixon's old phrase — and start taking the long view of the ousted president's accomplishments as a statesman in opening America's door to China.

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