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refuses to withdraw

pledge to stop drinking if confirmed as secretary of defense, but said he saw no reason to do so otherwise and accused his detractors of "hypoc-

risy." Tower also drew a distinction between the past "excessive" drinking he has admitted to and an alcohol "abuse" problem that would disqualify him for sensitive military positions.

At any rate, Tower maintained that such judgments are made by a military person's commanding officer and that, in his case, President Bush is his commanding officer.

Appearing on the CBS-TV interview program "Face the Nation," Tower also restated his determination not to ask that his nomination himself on the Senate floor.

be withdrawn. He argued that Bush WASHINGTON (AP) — John Tower on Sunday reiterated his controversy over his selection has escalated beyond consideration of his own personal qualifications.

"I still have a sip of wine now and again," Tower responded when asked whether he had stopped drinking since pledging a week ago to do so if confirmed. "Once con-

firmed, I will give it up altogether." Asked why he did not stop drink-ing immediately as "an act of good faith," Tower responded: "Well, why should I? Why should I? It is go little that it describe really

I? It is so little that it doesn't really matter. One reason I can give it up, and give it up easily, is because it doesn't really matter that much."

Tower said he had no plans to withdraw his name from nomination and would relish a chance to defend

Treatment works on mice with muscular dystrophy

vere form of muscular dystrophy has worked in two new studies in mice, and tests in human patients may begin this summer, scientists said

"This is the most exciting ap-proach for human therapy that, in my opinion, has ever come along," declared Donald Wood, director of research for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. "We basically have the first step

toward a potential to do therapeutics," said Louis Kunkel, co-author of one of the studies. "It looks promising.

The mice belonged to a strain that lacks a protein called dystrophin in the muscles. In humans, that defect causes Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common and severe form of dystrophy.

After the mice were treated, por-

NEW YORK (AP) — An experi-mental treatment for the most se-protein.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a genetic disorder that strikes boys almost exclusively, appearing in about one in every 3,500 male babies in the United States. It causes a progressive weakening and wasting of voluntary muscles. Most patients must use wheelchairs by age 12, and most die in their early 20s

Scientists from several nations will meet in June to discuss prospects for testing the approach in human patients, Wood said. He said preliminary experiments in a limited number of patients might begin this summer.

Those studies, focusing on single muscles or a few muscles, could lead to larger human studies. It is too early to say when the experimental procedure could be made widely available, Wood said.



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