

Turned On, Turned Off

It seemed at first as if everyone was on a "trip." On Capitol Hill, North Dakota's upright Sen. Quentin Burdick and the other sedate members of his Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee were told they should "turn on" with LSD. At the same time, in San Francisco a clutch of LSD devotees heard one of their high priests, Richard Alpert, propose a governmental "Internal Flight Agency" which would license LSD users to take mental trips and would provide "maps and charts for special journeys."

Still, there was some substance behind all the flippancy. The San Francisco conclave, sponsored by the University of California, brought together researchers to demonstrate that LSD and the other new mind drugs can be used for science as well as séance. Dr. Abraham Hoffer, director of psychiatric research at Saskatchewan's Department of Public Health, declared that thirteen years of study has convinced him "properly used LSD therapy can convert a large number of alcoholics into sober members of society." He reported improvement in two-thirds of chronic alcoholics given LSD doses as a substitute.

Dr. Eric Kast of the Chicago Medical School, in a paper presented for him by Dr. Sidney Cohen of UCLA, reported that he administered LSD to 80 gravely ill patients and found that while he had to end most trips early—because the debilitated patients began to get frightened—no fewer than 72 patients wanted to take LSD again. The drug, Kast concluded, lessened the patients' physical distress, improved their morale and "apparently eased the blow which impending death deals..." There were, nonetheless, some doubts about LSD's role in medicine. Claudio Naranjo, a University of Chile anthropologist, contended that LSD is less valuable in treating psychiatric patients than the hallucinogenic agent ibogaine, an extract from an African plant. The reason: ibogaine creates a "thoughtful" mood as opposed to the frenetic LSD reaction.

Traveling Friend: Cal's meeting was turned on intermittently, of course. In addition to Alpert, LSD messiah and former Harvard professor Timothy Leary floated freely, radiating light in white chinos and tieless white shirt. Arm-in-arm with a dazzling blond traveling companion, he accepted offerings of money for his defense fund (he is appealing a conviction for transporting marijuana) and bestowed kisses on admirers.

Bushy poet Allen Ginsberg also showed up at San Francisco, but he made his most memorable appearance at Burdick's hearing, composing poems for the Senate and confessing that, on one LSD trip, he found himself saying

prayers for the President. Other Senate testimony was no less singular. New Yorker Walter H. Bowart, the newspaper publisher (of the East Village Other) who recommended "in all humility" that at least one senator "turn on," thought the experiment might produce better legislation on mind drugs. At the same session, 23-year-old Eve Babitz, another East Villager, urged that Congress provide quiet parks as launching pads for LSD trips. Bowart concurred. The city is a bad place to take LSD, he explained, because while "a rose smells ten times as good, garbage smells ten times as bad."

The senators seemed unlikely to ac-



Newsweek—Eugene Anthony

Leary, friend: New light on LSD

cept either the suggestion to turn on or the idea of providing LSD launching pads. More likely, according to Burdick, LSD will be put by law in the same category as mainline narcotics and users will be grounded and turned off.

'We Know What to Do'

"The enemy isn't a number," warns Bernard Berelson, vice president of the Population Council, "it's a rate." And most demographers agree. The world population growth rate now stands at 2.1 per cent, the population at 3.3 billion. Result: the world will grow this year by 65 million, a population greater than that of Mexico and Canada combined. Should this growth continue unchecked, 6.7 billion people will be competing for bread and elbowroom by the end of the century. No wonder, then, that the neo-Malthusians and other pessimists believe man's own proliferation on this planet poses a graver threat to survival than hydrogen bombs.

But now there are grounds for optimism. In a voluminous, 848-page report

published this week, the Population Council hopefully predicts that the growth rate will be halved within two decades in large areas of the developing world. "I am not suggesting that the task is done," notes council president Frank W. Notestein. "But we know now what to do."

The report, "Family Planning and Population Programs—A Review of World Developments" (University of Chicago Press, \$12.50), is, in fact, the most comprehensive text yet on how to do the job of limiting births. From the number of condoms produced annually in Japan to the number of women choosing intra-uterine devices, or IUD's, in Tunisia, the range of the report is encyclopedic. An outgrowth of the International Conference on Family Planning Programs in Geneva last August, the report marks the movement of birth control into a new phase where action at last seems to predominate over research. First, it notes a significant international increase in the number of oral-contraceptive users. In 1965 alone, the number rose from 6 million to about 8.5 million. And users of all types of contraceptives last year were estimated at 25 to 30 million in the non-Communist world. The report adds, however, that this was only 8 per cent of the "fertile" population.

No Knowledge: The relatively small number of couples using modern methods of birth control is not the result of a lack of interest or motivation. In a summary chapter, Ronald Freedman, director of the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center, reports that "a significant minority and often a majority of the population are interested in family limitation," particularly in the emerging nations. In Tunisia, Berelson found that 72 per cent of parents wanted no more children. But he also notes that more than eight out of ten adult Tunisians do not even have knowledge of a single method of contraception. "The level of information about the physiology of reproduction is low indeed," he writes. "For example, fewer than 10 per cent of Turkish and Thai women correctly know the days of the cycle when conception is possible."

Ignorance about the basic facts of life is often compounded by diffident distribution of contraceptive devices. Harry L. Levin, a Population Council consultant, found that in many areas of the world, contraceptives tend to be under-the-counter items because of "residual cultural stigmas about sex."

There is, however, one method of family limitation that nearly everyone knows—abortion. Freedman holds that it "well may be the most widely used single method in the world today." In Hungary, where abortion is not only legal but predominantly sanctioned for personal rather than health reasons, such