

—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Detectives study thousands of forged check and credit cards.

... and a man.

A search of the apartment and nearby cars turned up items ranging from blank credit cards to bogus money, plus photographic and check stamping equipment.

Detective N. D. Emberlin, who headed the raiding force, said the items seized indicated the ring not only forged its own checks, but also printed documents to be used as identification.

THE PRELIMINARY COUNT Sunday included 30,000 to 35,000 checks, 500 to 700 credit cards, an undetermined number of Texas driver licenses, military discharge papers and identification ... driver's license and forged checks which would indicate a broad-based operation.

The Dallas Morning News —

LOCAL NEWS

Editorials Classified

Monday, April 17, 1972 ★★★★

D

Dallas Morning News

'Silent Epidemic' From Paint

Lead Poisoning May Affect 15,000 Children

The so-called "silent epidemic" of lead poisoning from paint, estimated to affect half a million youngsters across the nation, may involve as many as 15,000 children in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

That sobering assessment, made Sunday by federal health official Dr. Robert Fischer, puts Dallas squarely in the mainstream of U.S. cities just becoming aware of the long-standing health problem.

The Health, Education and Welfare Department says from 400,000 to 500,000 youngsters, aged 1 to 5, probably have high lead levels in their blood from eating lead-base paint chips from cracking, peeling walls in older houses.

Even more serious are current suspicions that "many" mentally retarded youngsters, and now-grown adults from years past, suffer their condition as the result of eating lead-contaminated paint chips.

"It's horrendous," said Fischer, officially attached to the Bureau of Community Environmental Management within HEW. "The problem's so great it needs nothing short of a national commitment to solve."

So far, Congress had fallen short of such a commitment.

Fischer said only $1.5 million of an initial $10 million authorization for 1972 has been made available for programs dealing with lead poisoning and removal of lead-base paints from walls.

Heightened federal interest is indicated, however, by Fischer's Dallas visit, beyed around a HEW regional conference on lead poisoning last week and a meeting of the Youth National Association for Retarded Children over the weekend. The latter group, which met at the Executive Inn, plans a national campaign against lead poisoning.

While lead poisoning can come from several sources, including auto exhaust emissions, lead-base paints are a chief culprit.

The lead is in the form of certain chemical compounds use in paint manufacture before 1955, when the industry began steps to cut lead content in their interior paint products. Much exterior paint still contains high levels of lead to improve bonding, sealing and color, Fischer said.

The social revelation of the last decade brought the problem of lead poisoning to national attention. "It's lead in the problems of the poor and the black," explained Fischer. Poor Americans must utilize life in old and deteriorating housing where lead-base paint was used on interior walls.

More recently, the problem was discovered to be nationwide, rather than restricted to the East Coast and other industrial cities. A HEW survey of 27 cities showed 20 per cent and more of the housing tested to have lead-base paint on walls. The selected sample hit hardest in older, poorer neighborhoods, Fischer noted.

HEW also estimates some 200 children die yearly from diagnosed lead poisoning and some 20,000 symptomatic cases are treated across the nation.

Fischer admitted a great many more cases may go undetected or misdiagnosed because of the subtle symptoms of lead poisoning. The victim usually becomes anemic and bears some muscular control in the early stages and may suffer central nervous system damage and ultimately coma, then death, in the late stages, he said.

The amount of paint needed to impair health varies with the child and the situation, said Fischer, but the federally set limit for lead level in the blood is 40 micrograms per 100 milliliters for children aged 1 to 5. Levels above that are considered indicative of lead poisoning.

"The only way to control the disease is to get rid of the paint," Fischer declared. "Simply repainting won't remove the hazard."

He said the U.S. House of Representatives plans to authorize a whopping $85 million during fiscal 1973 for paint removal and lead poisoning measures, but it is unclear how much may finally be appropriated.

"The government has an investment in children," Fischer feels. "They don't have any choice . . . they are the innocent victims in this situation."

—TERRY ELIEVE

Airport Administration Staff Moves In

Staff Special

IRVING—The $1.45-million Dallas-Fort Worth Airport administration building has become the first building to be occupied at the 17,000-acre airport site.

The administration staff of about 30 moved from temporary offices in Arlington over the weekend. The new quarters include two stories, a basement, and 20,000 square feet of floor space.

When the post ... the Arlington apart... berlin said the thr... year-old woman and ...—surrounded with ... were arraigned belo... lud Judge Luther ... bond at $50,000 ea... ferred to Dallas, w... city jail Sunday nigh...

POLICE ALSO A... gary charges against ... Sunday.

Bank and forge... major all companies ... and national ... with a stolen ... found. This includes ... it cards and driver ... loss names and addr...

The cache of ch... Dallas, stolen ... stolen personalized ... business checks ... town banks. Several ... checks were also fo...

The counterfeit ... were found among th... seized.

Four cameras, ... writer stolen in 1967 ... ing seized were appare... ing driver's licenses, ...

Capt. Lamphin ... linked with more the... vending machine bry... a few burglaries for ...

OTHER ITEMS ... Christian University ... small-coin collection ... stolen government ch... meals and correspond... bad credit ratings.

"This thing could ... million-dollar-a year ... berlin said.

Texas Ranger Tom ... sted Emberlin and ... Reynolds, J. H. Mo... Franklin on the Arling...

Emberlin said poss... other federal authoriti... investigation.

He said much of ... found in an automobile ... of the apartment bloc...

0007-SWP-037133

N22939