

Arrested at School

Turner Student Held As User of Narcotics

By JOHN GEDDIE

A 15-year-old high school student paced the floor of a small, maximum-security cell at the Dallas County Mental Evaluation Center Thursday.

County officials said he had been arrested minutes earlier at R. L. Turner High School in Carrollton.

He was, officials said, under the effects of some form of drugs, either narcotics or a hallucinogen.

HIS EYES WERE wide open. A shock of hair covered his forehead, but he was not a "long-haired hippie." He was clean and as neat as could be expected in his white evaluation center coveralls.

He appeared intoxicated. But he has a brief history of drug use, and attendants found needle marks on his arm. He was irritated at being locked up.

"Are you on acid?" someone asked.

He mumbled an incoherent answer.

"Are you on acid?"

"No, man," he replied. "Ask——(apparently a friend).

"**YOU TELL 'EM** where I've been all day," he pleaded, staring straight into the face of County Judge W. L. (Lew) Sterrett. "Where have you been?" the judge replied.

The youth was silent again.

Bill Watkins, director of the county men-

tal illness department, said later R. L. Turner officials called police to take custody of the youth, who apparently came to school Thursday under the influence of drugs or took something in school.

He fought police when they arrested him, Watkins said.

He will be examined Monday and, if suffering from a dependency on drugs, he will be sent to a mental institution.

INVESTIGATORS KNOW he was reported as a drug user last fall. His grades have fallen, although his school attendance record is fair. His father committed suicide recently.

His mother, who quit work to be with her children, said the boy had been "doing pretty good" until Thursday.

"I'm well pleased with the way the school handled this case," Judge Sterrett said later. "They called police and got the boy in here. This will encourage others to do the same, instead of slipping him out of school and sending him home.

"That boy symbolizes one of the worst things to happen to this country."

He also symbolizes another case of suspected drug dependency in Dallas County, which has furnished 11 drug patients — from age 16 to 53 — to Terrell State Hospital already this month.