Prof. Dr. R. Siegeert  
Hygiene-Institute der Universität  
Pilgrimstein 2  
Marburg/Lahn, Germany

Dear Prof. Siegeert:

I have returned from Europe only a few days ago and I regret the delay in replying to your letter of 28 August. With regard to the questions that you raised, I should like to say the following:

1) My own studies on the presence of virus in the posterior pharyngeal wall of children, as well as of adults, who received oral polio vaccine indicated that virus was recovered in small amounts only occasionally at 21 days after feeding of the vaccine, and never at 28 days. I must point out, however, that virus recovery at 21 days was not common and, furthermore, virus recovery from the posterior pharyngeal wall after feeding of about $10^5.5$ TCD$_{50}$ of virus, occurred in only 20 to 30% of persons.

2) The new departure in your technique for testing for virus in the blood is not in the amount of blood that you used, because other investigators have used as much or more, but rather in the fact that you tested the frozen and thawed blood clots. All that I can say is that the results of tests by many investigators in different parts of the world, who used either heparinized blood or serum or, as Melnick has done, acidified serum reversing any antigen antibody complex, have all yielded negative results. It is conceivable that occasionally small amounts of virus absorbed from the lymph nodes may immediately be taken up by the white blood cells, and that the procedure that you have used might then reveal it. I must say the fact that the number of your isolations was small, and that it occurred only on second passage in
individuals with antibody prior to vaccination, as well as in those without such antibody, makes one wonder about the real significance of these findings. Obviously, one must differentiate between virus multiplying in some extraneural tissues, outside of the alimentary tract, to a sufficient extent to produce regularly demonstrable significant levels of virus in the blood stream, from mere traces of virus that may be absorbed from the lymph nodes in which virus is not multiplying.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards to Dr. Enders-Ruckle and yourself, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS:meh

blind copy sent to Prof. Dr. Richard Haas.