December 14, 1960

Dear Dr. Sabin:

Please find enclosed a tear sheet from this week's BARRON'S with a note regarding the snafu on the oral polio vaccine. I hope we have managed to state the issue properly; if not, we should, of course, be obliged for any correction that you consider important.

With best regards.

Yours,

Kurt Bloch
Associate Editor

Dr. Albert B. Sabin
Professor of Research Pediatrics
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

enc.
The World at Work

Brief Notes of the Week

REAL estate values on the West and East Coasts are softening. In California, Federal and state officials are investigating the market in equity, or so-called "second trust deed," real estate securities, which were supposed to offer "secured 10% interest rates." One California attorney estimates that dubious deals and declining values have placed "approximately $100 million of the public's money in jeopardy." In New York City, Norman Tishman, president of Tishman Realty & Construction Co., wondered aloud when new office construction, especially in Manhattan, would reach the saturation point. In fact, Tishman Realty answered that question three months ago when it dropped an option hold since the spring of 1959 to buy for $14 million cash (above a mortgage of some $8 million) Union Carbide's former Manhattan offices. Carbide now has cut its asking price.

Dr. Albert B. Sabin, who developed the live-virus vaccine for polio, stated last week that "many hundreds" of Americans will die in 1961 unless the oral vaccine is made available. His serum has completely eliminated polio in Cincinnati, and millions abroad—in the U.S.R. and elsewhere—have also taken it with success. Exacting standards set up by the Public Health Service, however, not only increase costs, but also create new hindrances to production of the vaccine. As used abroad, it contains about 40 live viruses, which may be harmful to monkeys but seem harmless to man; still the PHS insists that they be eliminated, painstakingly. Sharp & Dohme even succeeded in finding a new "simian" virus, and manufacturers fear there may be no end to such discoveries. Thus, an over-protective official technocracy threatens to paralyze progress in the American pharmaceutical industry. Last week at a symposium of the Food Protection Committee of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, Dr. David H. Dawson, vice president of du Pont, urged that the public not demand of government: "the elimination of risk, but... a judgment of risk vs. gain." Dr. Sabin's complaint shows what may be at stake.

U.S. foreign economic policies become more and more incoherent. The U.S. has agreed to lend Bolivia $10 million for the improvement and modernization of the ore concentration facilities at its nationalized tin mines. Since La Paz has reached no compensated agreement with the rightful owners of the expropriated mines, Washington is openly subsidizing theft. Soon after the loan agreement was announced, the oil equipment industry asked the Commerce Department to persuade the Export-Import Bank to finance its exports to nationalized mines.