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SAN FRANCISCO 15

Oral vaccine

February 2, 1960

Dear Albert

Have you any recent information on the safety of your attenuated polio. vaccine during the very large-scale trials in the U.S.S.R? How good has the follow-up been? Have any paralytic cases been traced to the vaccine? Or any spread of clinically apparent polio. infection from vaccinees to their contacts?

Having long been an advocate of this type of immunization against polio., I have recently given a review on the subject at a meeting of the Monterey Academy of Medicine, and am scheduled to give another early in March in Fresno. The objections raised by Dick and Dane, by Melnick and more particularly by Burney have undoubtedly caused a good deal of anxiety and fear, practically all based on the retention of some paralytogenic quality by the vaccine on intraspinal inoculation in monkeys. Overlooked is the fact that -- so far as I can find -- no instance of human paralytic disease has followed its use in very large numbers of individuals. Meanwhile, the 20-30% of persons who do not respond well to the Salk vaccine go unprotected.

Thank you for any assistance you can give me, and with best wishes

Sincerely yours

*H. K. Faber*

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