Dr. A. S. Evans
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Department of Epidemiology and Public Health
60 College Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Dear Al,

I found your note and the copy of your letter of November 7 addressed to Mike Wallace on my return from Italy. I did not see the 60 MINUTES program on swine influenza but was informed that a large portion of the program was concerned with interviewing a lady with residual paralysis that was said to be due to a Guillain-Barré complication of the swine influenza vaccine. In my judgment, one of the requirements of a diagnosis of Guillain-Barré Syndrome is that there be complete recovery from paralysis, and I therefore doubt whether the lady in question actually had Guillain-Barré Syndrome or some other paralytic syndrome that gives rise to persistent paralysis.

Having said that, I regret to say that I cannot agree with the statements in your letter to Mike Wallace. In the first place, I am surprised that you fail to provide denominators when you speak of the numbers of cases of GBS in vaccinated and unvaccinated persons within a specified period of time. But the GBS syndrome aside, I regret very much that I do not share your views on influenza. Enclosed herewith is a copy of my review of the book "Influenza in America - 1918-1976, etc." Also enclosed herewith is a copy of the lecture that I have prepared for our students here which contains data that are published and some unpublished data providing the basis for new perspectives that I have developed.

Best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M.D.

ABS/tkr
Enclosures: Book Review and Influenza lecture for students

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