Dear Dr. Sabin,

Thank you so much for your excellent letter to the President. I am enclosing a copy of my own letter to the President, and the reply which I have received from Mr. William Carey.

You will note that according to the attached story from the New York Times of December 25th, the bad news is all too true. It is urgent for us as members of the Council to let the President know that this budget freeze is ill-advised, and will do irreparable damage to our program. Couldn't you wire the President who is at the LBJ Ranch, Johnson City, Texas, and get other people vitally concerned in our program to protest these cuts?

I will talk to the other members of the Council and urge them to do likewise.

Seasons best wishes,

Gratefully yours,

Alice Fordyce

Albert B. Sabin, M.D.
The Children's Hospital Research Foundation
Elland Avenue and Bethesda
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229
December 16, 1969

Dear President Johnson,

As a member of the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, I am shocked to learn that the miniscule increase of $3,000,000 in the Fiscal 1965-66 appropriations voted for this Institute by Congress has recently been frozen.

We are told that increases in the Defense budget and the cost of the Vietnam war are the compelling factors in this decision. I cannot believe that $3,000,000 more or less is going to be crucial in the Defense Department’s budget. The fact is that the $3,000,000 increase is crucial in the Institute's budget. The whole National Institutes of Health program is dedicated to saving lives and preventing human suffering just as much as the Defense Department’s program is. Our 200,000 soldiers in Vietnam are being attacked daily by a recognized and foreign enemy. Our 195 million people here in the United States are being attacked daily too, sometimes by a familiar enemy such as cancer, and sometimes by an unrecognized one such as the common cold virus that struck you with dramatic repercussions last year.

You have stated that your objective is to promote better health, to wipe out infectious diseases and to increase the prime of life by 5 years. At our Institute every program is now directed to this same objective. It will take years to recapture the momentum that the programs now have, if no new grants can be made, and if our intramural research program is not expanded, and if no new contracts for vaccine development and immunology research can be projected.

How can we justify to the world’s scientific community who recognize our National Institutes of Health as the greatest health research project in the world that we can spend billions to learn to send men into space, but we can’t spend any more...
money to learn how to protect even you and me from the common cold?

I urge you, Mr. President, not to cut the National Institute of Health funds, and especially the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases program which has long been starved for adequate support.

I applaud the incredible progress in health legislation that your leadership has achieved in the past year. Won't you please make it possible to implement the high hopes you have stirred?

With all best wishes,

Alice Fordyce.
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20501

Mrs. Alice Fordyce, Secretary
National Committee against
Mental Illness
405 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Fordyce:

The White House has asked me to reply to your letter of December 10, 1965 to the President regarding a reported freeze of $3 million in 1966 appropriations for the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

In reviewing the trends of the 1966 Federal expenditures and proposed 1967 agency budgets, we are making every possible effort to insure that all high priority activities can be adequately financed and that, wherever possible, expenditures that are deferrable are, in fact, deferred. However, I can assure you that there is no decision to "freeze" or impound the $3 million increase to which you refer, although I can surmise that fragmentary reports of budgetary discussions within the executive branch may have given you this impression.

Sincerely,

William D. Isozay
Executive Assistant Director
U.S. HEALTH UNITS FACE BUDGET CUTS

December 24, 1965

NEW YORK TIMES

DEC. 25, 1965