

Major Polio Epidemic In Texas Seen; Simple Precautions Advised

New York — (U.P.) — The facts of this year's beginning polio "season" are these: Texas probably is in for a major epidemic. As for the rest of the country, no one can say — now.

How to deal with these facts is this: Take simple precautions but live normally. The chances of you or any member of your family coming down are slight, even in Texas.

No Sure Safeguard

But there is no known preventative, no sure safeguard. You have to learn to live with polio around until medical science conquers the disease.

Dr. Kenneth Landauer, director of medical services of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, is the authority for the facts and for the only sensible way of dealing with them.

Like a general commanding a developing battle, he was directing unparalleled resources for this season's assault on man by the tiny but vicious polio virus.

Season Early in South

His attention was centered on Texas and the South where the "season" begins earlier than in the rest of the country. It had begun in Texas with such virulence that Dr. Landauer was frankly disturbed.

Normally the polio season doesn't end there until August. Normally it builds up to a peak around the first week of that month. Yet this year's cases were running well ahead of those of 1950, which was a major epidemic year.

"Texas now has enough cases and enough focal points of infection for a bad epidemic," Dr. Landauer said. "It may have an epidemic that will leave more dead and more crippled than ever before."

Texas In Good Shape

"But Texas is in much better shape to fight an epidemic this year than ever before. It has more hospitals and more trained nurses. And it has all the foundation's resources. We'll do everything we can in the way of equipment and special services."

Through the national Red Cross nursing service, Dr. Landauer was mobilizing polio-trained nurses and therapists all over the country. They will be sent to Texas, or elsewhere, as they are needed. The point when this movement begins is when the local supply of nurses and therapists is fully utilized.

Polio is spread from person to person — and some persons may be "carriers" while being healthy and without ever showing any recognizable symptoms of polio. The sensible precautions

are personal cleanliness, avoidance of sudden chillings and fatigue, and quick attention from a doctor should any symptom develop.

VA Funds Available To Provide Autos For Disabled Vets

Funds to provide automobiles for seriously disabled veterans and to pay indemnity claims to dependents of deceased servicemen were made available to the veterans administration in the third Supplemental Appropriations Bill recently signed by the President, it was announced Saturday by the Portland VA regional office.

The bill provides the VA with more than \$285,000,000 for veterans benefits, including \$25,000,000 for automobiles and \$2,300,000 for servicemen indemnity claims.

GI Bill Funds

Also included in the bill are \$148,000,000 for subsistence and tuition payments for veterans receiving education or training under the G.I. Bill; \$60,000,000 for compensation and pension payments, and \$50,000,000 for extra-hazardous deaths under the national service life insurance act.

Funds to pay indemnity claims to dependents of servicemen and eligible veterans who died since the beginning of the Korean conflict have been exhausted since the latter part of April, 1952.

Under the servicemen's indemnity act of 1951, servicemen on active duty on and after June 27, 1950, are automatically covered against death in active service in the amount of \$10,000 — less any National Service Life Insurance or U.S. Government Life Insurance in force at the time of death.

For those called to active duty for 31 days or more, this free indemnity continues for 120 days after separation or release from service.

Because of the lack of funds, the VA also has held up payments on 6,287 approved applications for automobiles or other conveyances for seriously disabled veterans.

More than 1,500 other applications were pending on April 30 and the VA estimated that another 7,800 World War II and Korean veterans are eligible for the \$1,600 grant toward the purchase of a car.

Will Mail Authorization

VA regional offices will mail each veteran, whose application is approved, authorization to purchase his automobile.

The new automobile law, effective Oct. 20, 1951, did not contain an appropriation. The \$25,000,000 just appropriated is the first money made available under this act.

The law applies to eligible disabled veterans of World War II and those who served in the armed forces on and after June 27, 1950 — the start of the Korean campaign.

Eligibility Laws

To be eligible for automobiles and other conveyances, these veterans must be entitled to compensation for any of the following service-connected disabilities:

Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet.

Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands.

Complete loss of sight in both eyes or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to the degree as to constitute virtual blindness.

Salem Man Head Of State Vet Affairs

Salem — (U.P.) — William C. Dyer, Jr., of Salem is the new chairman of the advisory committee to the State Department of Veteran's Affairs.

He was chosen here Friday to succeed Ray Dorris of Portland. Samuel M. Bower of Grants Pass was named vice chairman to succeed Dyer. F. R. Pendergrass of Portland was re-elected secretary.

Dyer is the World War II veterans' representative on the committee. Bower represents the United Spanish War Veterans and Dorris, the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

TOWNSEND CLUB SPEECH

Mrs. J. A. Ford, head of the Washington, D. C. legislative bureau of the Townsend club addressed local Townsends and other interested persons Friday at the Knights of Pythias hall. She spoke on "National Old Age Insurance." The speech was well attended, according to Townsend officials.

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