

# Cutter Employees Plan To Use Their Vaccine on Own Children

Berkeley, Calif. — (U.P.) — Dr. Robert K. Cutter Saturday staked the lives of his employees' children on the integrity of his 58-year-old laboratories' production of Salk polio vaccine.

The 629 employees in the Cutter Laboratories here have shared this faith by having 465 of the children inoculated with the vaccine.

Cutter, a medical doctor, son of the founder of the firm, one of the largest of its kind in the nation, became president of the organization in 1933 following the death of his father.

It is not strange that his employees share "Dr. Bob's" faith in their own work. This is not the first time they have taken advantage of advances made in science applied at the Cutter Laboratories. It is company policy always to give employees first chances on such gains.

**Cutter Confident**  
Although the Salk polio vaccine produced by them here has been withdrawn from public use for double testing, Dr. Bob remains rock-fast in the belief that the ultimate determination will show that there has been no "carelessness or incompetence" on the part of his polio vaccine production team.

"We found early," he said, "that whatever we might say in our defense was being taken as whitewash. We decided not to get into a 'tis-taint' argument. We know that the men and women in our polio department are exceptionally well qualified folks of exceptional integrity. They have put out vaccine that passed all government tests — and our own more stringent tests. They and their children have been vaccinated with this vaccine."

He said that because only the U.S. Public Health service had all the information from the field, and has made inspections of the Cutter plants and others, it should make the "ultimate" determination of the current problem. He concealed any chagrin that might have been expressed because the vaccine produced by a rival firm now is being released in Cutter's home state—California.

"We sincerely hope," he said, "that this determination will be that neither our vaccine nor the vaccine of any manufacturer has been responsible for poliomyelitis which has occurred following injections. If, however, the determination should be that some cases were due to our vaccine, it will not be because of carelessness or incompetence. That I would bank my bottom dollar on."

**Vaccine Experiments**  
Such assurance must come naturally. He is 57; the company was founded a year before he was born. His father, a young pharmacist, started the business by dabbling as a hobby with the mysteries of biologicals in the back room of a small Fresno drug store. The elder Cutter and a friend, C. M. Twining, experimented with producing a vaccine to combat blackleg, a dreaded cattle disease. They also

worked on a diphtheria antitoxin that could be made inexpensively enough for general use. Most of such anti-toxin, then, came from France.

A blackleg epidemic at Fresno and use of Cutter vaccine to help stem the outbreak turned the backroom "lab" into an industry. A new sign was hung on the drug store—"Cutter Analytical Laboratory." That was in 1897. A bath tub, divided into four sections, became the first "barn" for small laboratory animals. Fresno, however, was too warm in summer for the experimental beasts. The company moved to a bare lot in Berkeley, across San Francisco Bay from the Golden Gate.

The 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire gave the laboratory a second opportunity to ward off threat of epidemic. Cutter was the only manufacturer of smallpox and diphtheria vaccines west of the Mississippi.

**Business Grows**  
The business grew. Today the 37 gleaming white buildings of the Cutter plant here sprawl over 20 acres on the shore of the bay. They are surrounded, now, by an industrial area of brass foundries, steel fabrication plants and a large seed house. This plant employs 629 people, but there are 468 other employees elsewhere — at the other large plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., and the 10 branches and warehouses scattered over the nation and Canada.

Cutter now makes 350 products, many of them for veterinary use as well as for humans. The company has been at the forefront in waging the never-ending battle against blackleg, hog cholera and similar animal diseases. The annual payroll is \$4,509,000. Net sales in 1954 totaled \$15,000,000 and assets as of Dec. 31 last year were \$8,724,011. But the recent withdrawal of Cutter polio vaccine resulted in a drop of its stock from \$14 per share on the morning of April 27 to \$9 at the close of the market.

The company, along with its growth, has faced other adversities. In May, 1948, a national hubbub was raised over possible contamination of portions of the nation's blood bank supplies because of products that originated with Cutter Laboratories. It turned out to be contaminated flasks containing dextrose and glucose solutions used for intravenous feeding. The company voluntarily recalled all batches to run double checks. This was possible because of meticulous records which give a history of every bottle leaving the plants here.

**Company Convicted**  
The government, however, filed an information with 12 counts of misbranding and adulteration of products. The company claimed the flasks of material had been contaminated in shipment or disturbed. The long legal wrangle ended, though, with the company being fined \$600 in federal court for "unintentional" shipment of contam-

inated intravenous solutions to hospitals. No blood bank supplies ever had been endangered, however, and Cutter survived the crisis and became a supplier of one seventh of all blood plasma used by the armed forces in Korea — a total of 1,500,000 pints from the Cutter labs.

The company also went through a patent infringement suit in 1948 when three Philadelphia medical supply companies claimed Cutter had infringed on two patents used in drying animal and human vaccines. Cutter lost the suit and paid \$70,922 damages which were set at two per cent of the firm's vaccine sales in 1946, which totaled \$3,546,100.

## Rice Nominated for Kiwanian Position

E. Ronald Rice, Medford, was nominated for division lieutenant governor for 1956 yesterday at a conference of club officials in Division 15 of the Pacific Northwest district of Kiwanis international.

Rice, proprietor of the Music Mart, is an ex-president of the Medford club. Nominating speech was made by Dr. L. Paul Walker, Medford, past lieutenant-governor. There were no other nominations.

Fred G. Rounds, Pullman, Wash., district governor, gave a short talk. W. P. Riddlesberger, Eugene, lieutenant-governor of the division, presided. Fourteen of the 18 clubs in the division were represented at the session to receive instruction, hear reports and exchange ideas.

A luncheon followed the morning meeting at the Jackson hotel.

## Italian Communist Party Boss Stricken

Rome — (U.P.) — The neo-Fascist newspaper Il Secolo said Communist party boss Palmiro Togliatti was rushed to a Rome hospital Sunday "gravely ill" with a brain condition. It said Togliatti's condition resulted from a cranial operation he underwent after his attempted assassination in 1949 and a sunstroke he suffered in Trieste two weeks ago. There was no confirmation of the report.

## Redding Man Dies Aboard SP Train

Springfield, Ore. — (U.P.) — Lawrence Glen Woods, 48, of Redding, Calif., was taken from a southbound Southern Pacific train at Oakridge yesterday afternoon, dead from an apparent heart attack.

Woods, a purchasing agent for the U.S. Plywood Corp., at Redding, had been visiting relatives at Eugene with his wife and had boarded the train to return to Redding.

At Alert weather station far north on Ellesmere Island round the clock daylight or darkness is a general rule. The sun never sets for 147 days a year, never rises for 145.



**TO GET TOP JOB** — Gen. Maxwell Taylor (above) was nominated by president Eisenhower to be Army Chief of Staff, replacing Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, who will retire June 30. Taylor is now Far East commander-in-chief of all U. S. and United Nations forces.

## Wisconsin Dairymen Think Rats Smart

Madison, Wis. — (U.P.) — Dairymen in Wisconsin, which calls itself "America's Dairyland," think rats are pretty smart.

They point out that experiments at the University of Wisconsin have revealed that laboratory rats won't eat dairy food substitutes and will refuse carbonated beverages when milk is available.

A. S. May Reynolds, university home economist, says the rats "get pretty clever at picking out the foods they want."

## Trade With Red Bloc Favored by US Delegate

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Warren Lee Pierson, head of the American delegation to the 15th biennial congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, said today the non-Communist nations of Asia should trade with the Red bloc in non-strategic goods.

The congress held its opening session today, with some 1,000 top business executives from 42 nations outside the Iron Curtain on hand.

Total payroll of hospitals is about \$3 billion for some 1,200,000 employees.

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IRRIGATED PASTURE Young stock for lease at Alpine Lodge on 99E Canyonville, Oregon. Wonderful opportunity for qualified operator. Contact Mr. Crowe, Union Oil Co., Coos Bay, Oregon.

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