

1956 March of Dimes

POSTER BOY

FIVE-YEAR-OLD TOMMY WOODWARD, OF BALTIMORE, MD. SYMBOLIZES THE NATION'S POLIO VICTIMS WHO STILL NEED MARCH OF DIMES HELP.

MORE THAN \$1500 IN MARCH OF DIMES FUNDS HAVE BEEN SPENT SO FAR FOR TOMMY'S CARE... DOCTORS SAY HE'LL NEED CARE FOR YEARS TO COME BEFORE HE CAN WALK WITHOUT CRUTCHES.

TOMMY'S SISTER, LINDA, AGE 8, WAS ONE OF THE 7,000,000 CHILDREN WHO GOT MARCH OF DIMES POLIO VACCINE IN 1955.

HIS DAD, VERN WOODWARD, IS A MARINE CORPS PACIFIC COMBAT VET... HIS MOTHER HAS BEEN A MARCH OF DIMES VOLUNTEER FOR 10 YEARS.

HIS BIG AMBITIONS ARE TO BE A POLICEMAN AND TO SINK JUST LIKE CHARLIE, HIS 2 1/2-YEAR-OLD BROTHER.

TOMMY WAS STRICKEN WHEN HE WAS 4 MONTHS OLD... JUST WHEN HE WAS LEARNING TO WALK.

Join the **MARCH OF DIMES**
January 3-31

Demand for Salk Polio Vaccine Said To Be Gaining on Available Supplies

Editor's note: The United Press has made a state-by-state survey of the polio vaccine situation. It shows that Salk shots are currently being produced faster than they are being used. But demand is picking up fast and is expected to outrun the supply again when the polio season begins in the spring. The following dispatch on this nationwide survey is by Michael J. O'Neill, UP Washington correspondent who has covered the Salk vaccine story from the start.

By MICHAEL J. O'NEILL
United Press Correspondent

Washington (U.P.)—Salk polio vaccine now is rolling off the production lines faster than it's used. But demand is picking up fast and is expected to run far ahead of supplies in the next few months.

A nationwide survey showed today there are currently about five million shots—the equivalent of nearly two months' output—on the shelves of doctors' offices, drug stores and local health departments.

But state health authorities said they are not concerned. Main reason for the delay in the vaccine's use, they said, is that many areas have been stockpiling shots for mass inoculation programs.

A month or so ago public health officials were worried about lagging demand for the vaccine. Now their main concern is whether they will get enough vaccine to provide protection to millions of eligible children before the 1956 polio season hits next spring.

"Demand has been increasing steadily," said Dr. Malcolm H. Merrill, California health director. "There is a question at this moment whether vaccine production can keep up with demand, especially if the current increase in acceptance continues."

There have been conflicting reports about how well the nationwide inoculation program has been doing since the government's voluntary distribution system went into effect this fall. To get the facts, United Press correspondents went to top health officials in the 48 states. Highlights of their report: Demand Great in Five States Demand for the vaccine was reported to be very great in

five states, substantial in 18, about equal to supplies in 15 and small in only six—Idaho, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Virginia. Four states didn't report. In many areas health authorities have been discouraging demand because of limited supplies.

The 43 states which were able to supply figures reported a total of 4,968,144 shots currently in the hands of health authorities and physicians. The figure is believed conservative. Estimates were not available for five states and the number of unused shots in the hands of physicians could not be determined precisely. Also, more than three million shots, recently released by the government, now are en route to the states for use.

Some of the vaccine apparently has not been used because of local apathy. But the big reason for large unused stocks in some areas in the effort of health departments to stockpile enough shots to keep a mass inoculation program rolling once started. These departments argue it would be unfair to distribute small amounts of vaccine piecemeal.

Inoculation Pattern Varies

Some inoculations are now being given in most states but the pattern varies widely. Injections are currently being given on a statewide basis in 13 states, in many communities in nine states, and in only a few communities in 11 states. In another 11 states, very few injections are being given, because of inadequate supplies or opposition to the vaccine. Four states didn't report.

Substantial opposition to the inoculation program was reported in five states. In Idaho, where Cutter-inoculated children were hard hit by polio, both the state health and medical authorities have opposed mass injection programs. In Massachusetts, au-

thorities declared the vaccine insufficiently safe but at least one community has gone ahead with vaccinations anyway.

In Kentucky, physicians took a stand against the vaccine but agreed health officers could give shots to those who requested them. Some medical opposition to mass inoculation programs also was reported in New Jersey and Kansas.

Priority Restriction Limited

Only about half the states are adhering strictly to the government recommendation that age priorities be limited to a 10-year span between birth and 15. Many are using the whole 15-year span and five have stretched their priorities through 19 years—Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota was typical. It enlarged its priorities group because of lack of demand for the vaccine in the smaller eligibility group.

Illinois suspended commercial distribution of the vaccine until Feb. 1. Dr. Ruth Church, state vaccine co-ordinator, reported

"there was a feeling that some vaccine had been diverted to non-priority groups." She said the supply situation will be re-evaluated in February and a decision made about resumption of distribution in commercial channels.

Three Main Reasons Cited

Health authorities cited three main reasons for the sharp drop in demand for the vaccine this fall: 1—Public uncertainty about the vaccine's safety; 2—Natural apathy setting in after the polio season ended; and 3—A slump in mass inoculations during the change-over from the school program of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the voluntary, state-by-state distribution system.

These same factors, in reverse, are cited as reasons for the new pickup in demand. There have been numerous official reports confirming the vaccine's safety and effectiveness, many parents are becoming conscious of the approaching polio season, and many states and communities are getting their inoculation programs underway.

Boise, Idaho (U.P.)—Republican National Chairman Leonard Hall said Saturday the value of the dollar "has changed less than a half a cent in three years" of the Eisenhower administration. Northwestern Paraguay is called the Gran Chaco.



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Dulles Schedules Far Eastern Visit

Washington (U.P.)—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles will visit the Far East in March to devise new strategy for protecting free nations from Communist economic or military penetration, it has been disclosed.

Authoritative sources said the much-traveled Secretary of State plans to fly to Karachi, Pakistan, for a meeting about March 6 of the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization, the so-called "Manila

Pact" alliance which the United States regards as a key bulwark against Red aggression in the Far East.

While plans for the trip are not complete, it is likely Dulles will expand his itinerary to include visits to other Far Eastern capitals. Last April, when he attended a Manila pact meeting in Thailand, Dulles went on to visit Formosa, Burma, the Philippines and other countries in the area.

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Bulganin Says War Threat Increasing

Moscow (U.P.)—Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin has declared that possession of mass destruction hydrogen bombs by both the East and West does not rule out the possibility of nuclear war.

The communist leader said the only way to prevent such a war is to ban all atomic and hydrogen weapons, and to establish an effective international control of armament.

Bulganin warned that the arms race was increasing the threat of a new war, rather than diminishing it.

The Soviet premier sounded his warnings in a question and answer interview with the American Telenews Television company.

"It is wrong to assert that inasmuch as East and West possess hydrogen weapons, the possibility of a thermo-nuclear war is automatically excluded," Bulganin declared.

"Assertions of this kind can, in fact, lull the vigilance of peoples who support the elimination of the threat of an atomic war."

"Of course, the fact that under present conditions atomic and hydrogen weapons cannot be used with impunity has some deterrent effect on those circles which would like to unleash war, using weapons of mass annihilation."

Difference In Sunstroke, Heat Prostration Told

Boston (U.P.)—Do you know the difference between heat prostration and sunstroke? The Institute For Safer Living says this is important life-saving information for vacationists.

Remember in heat prostration, the body is cold, clammy and bluish pale. Treatment is to bring body temperature UP to normal, so warmth is required.

In sunstroke, the body is dry, hot and red. Treatment is to bring the body temperature DOWN to normal by cooling devices such as shade, fanning and cool water.

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