

Outlook Bright for Major Victory Over Polio During Coming Year

Editor's note: This is the first of five dispatches on the outlook for curbing polio in 1956. It was prepared by a correspondent who won the National Headlines award for his polio stories in 1955.

By MICHAEL J. O'NEILL
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—The outlook is bright for a major but by no means total victory over polio in 1956.

The new polio season is coming up. But this year millions of children, many more than in 1955, will be protected by Salk shots.

The vaccine was pronounced a success on April 12 last year. A nationwide inoculation program was started but was plagued for months by controversy, confusion and delay.

This year the outlook is far more optimistic. The safety troubles seem to be over. Production is picking up fast. It now looks as if most children under 15 will get two shots before the polio season is in full swing.

Millions of parents are asking questions about the vaccine and the 1956 inoculation program.

The man with the answers is Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, surgeon general of the Public Health Service. Scheele, just confirmed by the Senate for another four-year term, has ridden herd on the vaccine program since it began. Here are his views as given in an exclusive interview with United Press:

Safety:
Q. Dr. Scheele, is the present Salk vaccine safe? A. Yes, Mr. O'Neill, it's as safe as science can make it. We have had no reason to believe that any lots of vaccine have had any problem in terms of safety since the problem we had of the Cutter vaccine last year.

Q. There is little or no risk, then, for a child who takes the vaccine? A. We believe there is no substantial risk in taking the vaccine but the risk of contracting polio is, of course, a substantial one by comparison.

Q. What guarantees are there against any live virus getting into the vaccine? A. The safety standards and production techniques have a whole series of built-in safety factors. We now require many more tests than formerly and we are also spot testing vaccine in the National Institutes of Health here.

Q. What chances are there of a vaccinated child transmitting polio to his brothers and sisters or to his parents? A. There should be no danger unless the child has had contact with polio in the neighborhood and the vaccine has not given him protection.

Effectiveness:
Q. How effective is Salk vaccine in preventing paralytic polio? A. During the last year of use, we found it was about 75 per cent effective even though most children got only one shot.

Q. How soon do you expect vaccine for adults? Any time this year? A. Well, there is vaccine available for pregnant women at the present time. How far it will extend beyond that before the year is over will depend largely on how the supply is in relation to overall demand.

Distribution
Q. How is the vaccine being distributed now? A. Well, each time a lot of vaccine is cleared by the Public Health Service,

the states are notified regarding their proportionate share, figured by taking the population in the age group 0 through 14 and pregnant women. The states, in turn, notify us regarding what percentage they wish to go to public use and the percentage they wish to go to commercial use. This whole distribution system is a voluntary one in which the manufacturers and the states and the medical societies, physicians, and others are participating in order to make the scarce supply stretch the farthest.

Timing of Shots
Q. What is the present recommended course of inoculations? A. The present recommended course is the first injection followed in five or six weeks with the second. The second followed in about seven months with the third.

Q. Is there any harm done if the second shot is given much later than six weeks after the first?

A. No, none at all. It will still enhance the degree of immunity in most children. It just isn't the ideal spacing.

Q. What is the best time to have your child inoculated or vaccinated? A. Ideally it is before the polio season. But it is our feeling that any time is an appropriate time, even in the

polio season.

Q. When should shots not be given? A. It is advisable not to give them, for example, during illness, when a child is otherwise sick or if one had reason to believe he was coming down with polio or another infectious disease.

Q. Is vaccination advised for children who already have had polio? A. Yes, if they have had type 1, they might later be exposed to type 2 or 3.

Q. Will children have to get booster shots every year to maintain immunity? A. We don't know

yet. Dr. Salk and others are studying this very carefully.

Q. How early in life should vaccinations be started? A. There is no harm in giving them after the first month of life.

Polio Incidence
Q. Doctor, do you expect the Salk vaccine to make a significant dent in the polio cases this year?

A. Yes we do. But it is very difficult to predict just what the dent will be because there are so many differences between the incidence of polio from year to year normally.

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Japanese Prince Attacks Nation's Sacred War, God-Emperor System

Tokyo—(U.P.)—For the first time, a member of Japan's once sacrosanct imperial family plans a public indictment of the "sacred war" Japan waged more than a decade ago and of the pre-war god-emperor system.

Prince Mikasa, earnest soul-searching youngest brother of Emperor Hirohito, wrote the bitter denunciation of the pre-war

Japanese system in an appendix to a scholarly book on the ancient Orient which he is to bring out soon.

In it, the 40-year-old prince attacks the "abominable atrocities" of Japanese troops in China under the masquerade of a sacred war. As an imperial prince, he automatically became a soldier and was assigned to that theater as a staff officer.

He also flays the rigid shackles placed on members of the imperial family under the pre-war imperial household system and describes his release from the system after the end of the war as like being liberated from a "prison without bars."

Excerpts from the article, recently printed in the newspaper Mainichi, showed the mental torture of a man, himself loving simplicity and the common man, being forced against his will into the career of a soldier and isolated from people by the barriers of an inexorable god-emperor system which extended to all royals.

"When I was a staff officer in Nanking," he wrote, "I lost all faith in the sacred war and wanted only peace. I was disgusted at the actualities of the sacred war. There is no need to bring up here again the abominable atrocities inflicted on the innocent Chinese people. Under the name of a just war, looting, violence, destruction by fire and rape were being carried on."

"I would like to apologize to my subordinates of that time concerning the moral fable of the sacred war."

When the war ended, Prince Mikasa was torn by conscience

and moral pangs and thought seriously about what he himself should do. Many Japanese had been jailed as war criminals. All nobility except immediate relatives of the emperor had been stripped of their rank.

Studied Archeology
He wrote that he thought of renouncing his position as a member of the imperial family and becoming a commoner, "but remained because I thought, as a prince, I might be able to do some good."

Later, the prince began studying Oriental archeology at Tokyo University. He described his relief at being able to study and talk freely without a frock-coated chamberlain in attendance in the classroom.

"I tasted the pleasure of opening an aluminum lunch box and eating salted salmon in the research room," he wrote.

The prince, who is now a lecturer on Oriental archeology at a Tokyo University, explained: "The reason I studied Oriental archeology is that I wanted to seek out from the ruins in the Middle and Near East, which was the origin of mankind and culture, the outlines of man and the state and think over what man should be."

The book in which this article will appear is compiled from a series of radio lectures by the prince and has been tentatively given the title, "Emperors, Graves and People—The Dawn of The Orient."

Prince Mikasa was instrumental in arranging a visit to Mesopotamia by a group of Japanese archeologists this year and may accompany the expedition himself.

Around Hollywood

Hollywood—(U.P.)—One veteran star has buck teeth, wears no clothes, is sassy and has a

whining Brooklyn accent— but today he celebrates his 20th anniversary as the boxoffice champ of Hollywood.

Bugs Bunny has been Warner Studio's top money-maker and the head of Hollywood's boxoffice poll for 20 years. No other actor can make that statement.

Unfortunately, Bugs, like Doris Day and Susan Hayward, never has won an Oscar. But his creators sigh that many a top ticket-seller never makes the artistic grade.

On Bugs' 20th birthday and 20th anniversary in pictures I dropped in at his home, the Warner cartoon department where Bugs is spoken about as if he were a two-footed veteran such as Spencer Tracy. The busy bunny shows no signs of dropping in popularity.

Carrot Juice Licensed
"We've just licensed Bugs Bunny carrot juice, carrots and waffle and gelatin molds in the shape of the rabbit," beamed Edward Selzner, chief producer of the cartoon department.

"Bugs gets many offers to appear on TV. But if a star is on TV all the time, people get tired of him."

The racy rabbit started his film career as an extra in a cartoon, "Harem Scarem." Two years later the studio decided to star him in "Heckling Hare." Bugs was a smash.

Marilyn Monroe has changed in appearance since her first film. So has Bugs. His legs and

body are longer and he's switched from tawny fur to blue-gray fur. But his personality remains the same.

Bugs in Character
"Bugs is sassy and happy-go-lucky," explained Selzner. "When we develop a story for him we select it with as much criticism and care as if he were Anna Magnani. We won't put him out of character."

Bugs has starred in 146 movies, including this year's "Napoleon Bunny-Parte," and "Foreign Legion-Hare." He appeared twice in live movies. Always the leoparded star has the voice of Mel Blanc.

"Blanc," insists producer Selzner, "actually is allergic to carrots. So we leave his carrot-munching line of 'What's up, Doc?' to the end when we record the sound."

"Mel tried celery and apples but nothing sounds like a carrot. Funny but Blanc just can't stand carrots."

Movies, Pictures to Be Allowed at Trial

Denver—(U.P.)—Sound movie films and "still" photography as well as wire and tape recordings for re-broadcast will be permitted of the John Gilbert Graham airliner bombing murder trial, District Judge Joseph M. McDonald announced Saturday.

But live telecasts and broadcasts of the trial, which opens before McDonald here April 16, were ruled out.

Washington—(U.P.)—The U. S. Atomic Energy commission Saturday asked for bids for construction of the new AEC headquarters building near Germantown, Md.

Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

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