

Canada To Resume In Fall Polio Vaccination Program

OTTAWA (CP)—Before the anti-polio vaccination program in Canada was suspended for the summer months by previous agreement, 800,000 children had received at least two of the prescribed three shots.

It is estimated that by March 31 next year, 3,000,000 of Canada's 5,225,000 children under 15 will have been vaccinated.

The program was halted for this summer and fall for two reasons: It would be difficult to round up the children for vaccination during the school holidays, and doctors are not sure it is wise to vaccinate during the height of the polio season.

Up to the end of July only one polio victim—a 10-year-old boy at Leamington, Ont.—had been reported among the 800,000 inoculated. Health officials here said there were no cases of polio in the province which had received more than four weeks earlier.

DOUBLE TESTING
This points up an important aspect of the Canadian immunization program—the double-check. The vaccine is tested both by the Connaught Laboratories in Toronto and federal government laboratories here.

When it was announced last April 12 that the Salk vaccine is at least 90 per cent effective against all types of poliomyelitis, Canada had detailed plans ready for its production and distribution. More important, there was enough vaccine then to start inoculating 600,000 Canadian children.

From trials conducted last summer in Canada and the United States, health authorities already had a fair idea the vaccine would be partially effective. They provided 11,000,000 and told Connaught Medical Research Laboratories in Toronto, still the only vaccine manufacturer in Canada, to turn out the Salk serum full blast.

It takes three months to produce and test a batch of vaccine. If no stocks had been ready by April 12, the immunization program could not have got under way until this fall.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
The Dominion Council of Health—the deputy health ministers of the federal and the 10 provincial governments—went further than ordering vaccine from Connaught. It agreed on how the vaccine should be distributed through Canada, what age groups would receive the free injections, and how the cost would be shared: 50 per cent by the federal government, 30 per cent by the provinces. Vaccine for each child costs \$1.50, enough for three doses.

Health matters in Canada are under provincial jurisdiction but there has long been a basis for federal-provincial co-operation in this field. In 1948, the federal government introduced a system of health grants for the provinces, matching in money what the provinces put up for hospital construction and the like.

The federal and provincial governments decided that Salk vaccine should go to children in the first and second grades of school, except in Quebec. That province decided to vaccinate two- and three-year-olds because it had found incidence of polio greatest in that age group.

The vaccine was allocated to the provinces on a population basis and Connaught laboratories can sell only to the provinces.

By April 12, Connaught had produced enough vaccine for 630,000 children and the immunization program started immediately. Connaught vaccine had been used for about 90 per cent of the trials in the U.S. the previous summer.

U.S. PROGRAM INTERRUPTED
In early May immunization was halted in parts of the U.S. because some vaccinated children contracted polio.

Responsible Canadian officials gathered in the federal health department offices. Health Minister Paul Martin was out of town and had to be reached by telephone. Authorities in the provinces and in Washington were consulted. Almost without hesitation, decision was reached that the Canadian-made vaccine was safe. Mr. Martin announced the following day.

Because all vaccine being used in Canada's joint federal-provincial program is produced at Connaught laboratories and is submitted to very extensive testing in two stages—first at the Connaught laboratories and later at the federal laboratory of Hygiene—and because approximately 500,000 Canadian children have been inoculated without unfavorable reaction, the provincial health authorities with whom we have been in touch are unanimously agreed that there should be no interruption in our present nation-wide immunization program.

Five U.S. pharmaceutical houses applied for licences to ship Salk vaccine into Canada. Only two—Parke, Davis and Co., Detroit, and Eli Lilly Corp., Indianapolis—could meet the Canadian tests. Parke, Davis shipped into Canada enough vaccine for about 13,000 triple doses before all imports were halted indefinitely in early May.

This does not mean imports of U.S. vaccine are forever barred from Canada. Authorities say that when the American program has sorted itself out, shipments in Canada for use by private practitioners probably will be resumed.

INCREASE PRODUCTION
Meantime, production in Canada is to be increased. The Institute of Microbiology in Montreal is expected to get into production by September. Once all children in the first two school grades have been inoculated, the provinces will decide what groups will next receive the vaccine.

Canadian officials have declined to draw comparisons between the Canadian and United States immunization programs. Privately they say Canada's was better planned and is better administered. Some U.S. congressmen have written the Canadian health department for information on the Canadian program.

Officials here say that Canada had a simpler problem than the U.S. The population is only 15,000,000. There was only one manufacturer. Co-operation had to be reached among 11 instead of 46 governments. When the vaccine became available, authorities knew how it was to be distributed and to whom.

CAUTIOUS IN COMMENT
Officials say it is too early to judge whether the immunization of the 80 hopefuls took four pills. In a few days the 80 men will parade before the cameras for the last time and a panel of doctors will study the results. "It's going to be a big disappointment in thousands," the hospital spokesman said.

program will sharply reduce the incidence of polio this year. They intend to wait until the end of the polio season before they comment. So far it appears that, even without the vaccine, this would be a fairly light polio year.

Mr. Martin has said the Salk vaccine should be regarded as a blessing, not a miracle. "I should like to remind Canadian parents that the Salk vaccine is not a total and complete preventive of paralysis from polio," he said May 19.

"Indeed, we must face up to the fact that some children may even develop polio after vaccination, since no two children have the same degree of immunity, either natural or acquired. But scientific evidence indicates that such attacks would likely be of a milder form."

(Continued from Page 5)

In Memoriam

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. MacAulay.
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Peter MacPhee and family.

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Telegram.
Merlin MacAulay, Sable Island.

Card of Thanks
Peter A. MacIsaac and family wish to express their thanks to many friends, neighbours and relatives for their kindness during their recent bereavement. To those who sent Mass Offerings, Floral Tributes, Letters of Sympathy, Telegrams, Enrollments, Spiritual Bouquets, and all who helped in any way we are deeply grateful.

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SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—The work stoppage by fewer than 100 men on the final assembly line. Company officials said it was impossible to operate without the assembly line workers. The work stoppage involves a dispute over seniority. Walkouts last Thursday and Friday also caused shutdowns.

OTTAWA (CP)—Prime Minister St. Laurent confirmed that he will attend Saskatchewan's jubilee celebrations in Regina Sept. 5. He informed G. H. Castleden (CCF-Yorkton) in the Commons that he has accepted an invitation from Premier Douglas to participate in the province's 50th birthday observances.



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British Labor Groups To Press Wage Demands

BLACKPOOL, England. (Reuters)—Leaders of two of Britain's biggest organized labor groups decided Wednesday to press wage demands on behalf of more than 3,000,000 workers that would cost a total of £100,000,000.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, meeting here, unanimously decided to submit a "substantial claim" to employers for 2,500,000 workers.

In London, the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen decided to refer the question of a new wage demand for its 370,000 members to its negotiating committee for "urgent consideration."

The claim follows an award last week to about 500,000 civil servants which will cost the government an extra £15,000,000 a year.

The spate of wage demands cuts directly across the government's deflationary policy aimed at cutting down home expenditure, slashing the import bill, and freeing more goods for export markets.

Bad News For Baldies
STOKE MANDEVILLE, Eng. (AP)—Bad news for baldies: The great hair-raising scheme under way at the hospital here appears to be proving a failure.

It's not official yet, but the 80 high-domed hopefuls experimenting with the drug pyridyl carbinal report sadly they've grown barely a new hair.

"We've just one or two new fuzz patches to show," a hospital spokesman reported. "Otherwise, I'm very much afraid it's been a washout."

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