

## Republican Fact Finding Group To Hear Candidates Next Monday

The 180-member 17th Congressional District Republican Fact-Finding Committee at its final organizational meeting in Gardena last week selected Monday night, Feb. 8 as the commencement date for hearing prospective Republican candidates for Congress.

The group heard subcommittee reports on candidates, credentials, rules and questionnaires. As approved by the committee-at-large, the candidates subcommittee proposed that all prospective candidates be present at the next meeting, Monday, Feb. 8th at 8:00 at Gardena Elementary School. At that time names will be drawn to determine the order of appearance of applicants.

The subcommittee, which includes John C. Robb and Marion Key of Manhattan Beach, Helen Spires of San Pedro, Mrs. Clayton Thomas and Harry Anderson of Redondo Beach, Lorraine Miller and Louis Jensen of Gardena, Jack Beardwood of Rolling Hills, Stanley Briggs and Frank Selover of Torrance, Earl Gilbert of El Segundo, Georgia Rice of Inglewood and Blaine Dixon and Mrs. George Fradeneck of Westchester also presented

letters to be sent to all applicants. The letter explains Fact Finding procedure—and includes a series of suggested topics to be covered in the applicant's formal presentation. These topics range from "Give your reason for desiring to run for Congress," to "State your basic political philosophy." At the close of the formal presentation applicants will answer questions from the floor.

Leonard DiMiccio of San Pedro drawn up by the Questionnaire committee. This questionnaire which contains basic biographical data will be filled out by each applicant and distributed to the committee members.

Potential candidates were asked to declare their intent to appear to the 17th district headquarters, 1337 El Prado Torrance, by noon of Feb. 8th.

## New Polio Vaccines Could Kill Disease

**POLIO VACCINE**  
By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., L.A. County Health Officer

The development of an effective polio vaccine has long been the dream of medical scientists. Reports of two such vaccines have recently appeared in medical literature—one developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk, Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the other by Dr. Albert Mizner and associates at the Michael Reese Research Foundation in Chicago.

Preliminary studies show that 700 children and adults have already been vaccinated with the Salk vaccine without suffering any ill effects, and the other has been used successfully in more limited experiments. Differing only in method of preparation, both show great promise as a polio preventive.

Thus far, no specific means of protection against poliomyelitis has proved to be wholly acceptable or satisfactory to the medical profession. Gamma globulin, the blood plasma protein that was first used extensively last year, gave protection for a few weeks only and the results of its effectiveness are not yet fully recorded. Furthermore it was, and is, in limited supply and available only to those persons directly exposed to the disease.

To give full protection against the disease, polio vaccine must contain the germs of all three types of polio (spinal, bulbar and spino-bulbar) since all three types are caused by a different virus. Both of these vaccines contain the germs of these three types and, it is hoped, will produce an immunity as complete as that given by smallpox vaccine which has caused the occurrence of smallpox to become something of a rarity among communicable diseases.

The germs in any vaccine must be killed, otherwise the individual inoculated with it will become ill with the disease. When the germs are dead, however, they stimulate the growth of chemical substances within the body (antibodies) which increase the individual's ability to resist the disease.

This year, in certain parts of the country, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, with the cooperation of private

physicians and public health officials, hopes to launch a mass vaccination program involving between 500,000 and 1,000,000 school children in the second grade who will be inoculated with three successive doses of polio vaccine. The cases of polio that occur in first and third grade school children will be recorded and compared with the incidence of the disease in the vaccinated children and the efficiency of the vaccine so determined. It is planned to have the vaccination program completed by June 1, 1954.

Consent of the child's parents or guardians will be necessary before the vaccine can be given. It is a purely voluntary procedure and no parents are compelled to have their children vaccinated.

In Los Angeles County during 1953 there were 1660 cases of poliomyelitis, 36 of which ended fatally. Although it cannot be predicted with any certainty, chances are that 1954 will continue the epidemic trend that started in 1948 when 3129 cases were recorded.

But certain reservations concerning the use of the vaccine in California school children are entertained by the committee appointed to investigate its use by the California State Board of Health. Permission for participation in this nationwide program is withheld until the effectiveness of the vaccine and the methods of correlating the results of the survey have undergone further study. However, whether or not the goal of prevention is reached in 1954, it is safe to say that among all the dreaded diseases, polio is perhaps the most likely to be brought under control in the near future.

A Foundation pamphlet giving 101 questions and answers about polio will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles 12.

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