

Apathy of Public for Anti-Polio Shots Worries Medical Officials

By DR. ROY O. GILBERT
County Health Officer

With the discovery of an effective vaccine for the prevention of poliomyelitis, health and medical officials soon had as their goal the vaccination of all persons under 40 years of age. Apparently, there is considerable apathy on the part of the public to avail themselves of this health measure, however, and this now preventable disease is still very much in the news.

The State Health Department reports that 77 per cent of the polio cases that have occurred in California this year have been paralytic in nature and two-thirds of these cases have occurred among the unvaccinated. Although in Los Angeles County to date the actual number of polio cases is less than last year, 107 as compared to 369 in 1957, the number of paralytic cases is proportionately very much greater.

The paralytic form of polio has struck hardest, according to health officials, among the preschool children and young adults who have not had the series of three inoculations of the Salk vaccine.

NATIONALLY, attack rates this year were highest in one-year-olds, with more than 50 per cent of all paralytic cases occurring in children under five. Figures show that these cases most often occurred either in poorly vaccinated or in lower income groups. However, enough cases occurred outside these groups to warrant vaccination for all persons up to at least 40 years of age.

The vaccine apparently confers immunity against the disease for a considerable period of time. Medical studies also show that it continues to be effective among persons who were vaccinated more than three years ago.

CONSIDERING the availability of the vaccine it seems very heedless indeed to leave children unprotected against the disease, and they should certainly be protected by vaccination.

Polio vaccination is offered in many community clinics underwritten by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which are generally announced in local newspapers. The service is also available

High Tax Level Poses Problems For Legislature

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

Members of your Legislature are not too happy about one dark cloud which cast gloom over the holiday season for them. That is the threat of need for new and higher state taxes to keep the general fund solvent. No legislator can ever be pleased at the prospect of handing a bigger tax bill to his constituents.

There can be no doubt about it, the state's fiscal outlook is pretty grim. Expenditures from a general fund for the first four months of the fiscal year topped income by more than \$160 million. Experts fix the year-end deficit at anywhere from \$100 to \$153 million, and predict one of close to \$300

in health centers of the Los Angeles County Health Department, but only for clients of the child health and prenatal clinics and for the clients of the Department of Charities. The vaccine may also be obtained in the offices of private physicians.

With the increasing trend toward the occurrence of a form of polio that leave a residual paralysis, vaccination against this disease is advisable.

million for the end of the following year, unless funds are obtained from some sources, such as higher taxes.

The joint interim committee on taxation recently held a two day hearing to explore the situation of the general fund and the necessity for additional taxes. The picture as painted by a parade of expert witnesses is anything but pretty. Nevertheless, some factors exist, committee members pointed out, which might make it possible to postpone the evil day when tax boosts become inevitable.

THE COMMITTEE was told that as a matter of fact the general fund had developed year deficits in seven of the last ten fiscal years. These have been made up from previously accumulated surpluses. It was also pointed out that these deficits have occurred because of large transfers to reserves from the fund, totalling \$595 million over the period. Fund income doubled during that time, and actually expenditures from it for state operations, and for various required grants to counties, cities, and school districts have increased just about as much.

In recent years, however, the

various reserves have been almost exhausted. The capital outlay reserve of more than \$400 million has been used to build new university and college buildings, institutions, and office quarters. The postwar unemployment fund has all been distributed to localities. The \$75 million "rainy day" fund will be wiped out to meet this year's deficit.

THE HUGE surplus in the general fund has melted as fast as snow. Totalling more than \$109 million at the start of fiscal 1957-58 it is now, seventeen

months later, replaced by a deficit just as large. And fund revenues are down, too. Total receipts for 1957-58 were off \$34 million, of which \$21 million was in sales tax.

The committee was reminded that in spite of the bad condition of the general fund, the state still has some reserves which can offset the deficit, if the Legislature wishes to use them for the purpose. First, there is the investment of \$154 million, still being built up from oil royalties. While this has been regarded as dedicated to water project construction, actually the Legislature has full power to decide its use.

Next are surpluses in a num-

ber of special funds, amounting to a total of over \$115 million. While these have been built up by various regulatory boards and agencies, such as real estate, insurance and the like, the Legislature could conceivably order their transfer to the general fund as credit against the deficit.

From the committee's reaction to the suggestion for use of these reserves and surpluses, it seems certain that a thorough study will be made of the possibilities of doing so before the group pays serious attention to new or higher state taxes.

Three Admitted to Orthopaedic Hospital

Three Torrance youngsters have been admitted as patients at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital.

They are Cyrus Hubbard 15, son of Mrs. Juanita Hubbard of 1113 W. 209th St., Eugene McCann, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore McCann of 21521 Halldale Ave., and Michael Palacios, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Santiago Palacios of 903 E. 220th St.

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