

CABINET PAPER—PRIVILEGED

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It has been recommended by producers, distributors, medical societies and some consumer groups that the vaccine be distributed on a voluntary basis. Distribution would be made following recommendations of the National Advisory Committee to producers, and after consultation with State committees set up by Governors.

Shipments after allocation would flow to State health departments, and to ~~private~~ physicians for their respective use. The flow of vaccine would be through normal trade channels.

Tasks of Advisory Committee

The National Advisory Committee, staff for which has been appointed and is already at work, will hold its first meeting on Monday, May 2.

One of its first--and most urgent tasks--will be the development and release of a statement of priorities with respect to age groups.

The Committee will also:

- collect information concerning the production of each company.
- match total production figures against the numbers of persons in the most susceptible age groups for each State, and advise each company of the monthly amount it should distribute to each State until vaccine is no longer in short supply.
- on the basis of reports from the States, advise each company on the amount to be allocated to tax-supported institutions and to private practitioners through the normal channels of trade.



The Governors of the States and Territories have been requested to appoint an official point of contact within the State to keep the National Committee informed as to local needs and conditions.

Economic Problems

The vaccine purchased by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis for the 9 million first and second graders, for those who received "dummy shots" last year, and for those who cooperated in the field tests without receiving "control" or "dummy" shots is being provided by the Foundation without cost to the parents. The costs of administering the program in each State are being carried by State health departments, or departments of education. Physicians have volunteered their services without charge.

The Foundation has not agreed to purchase the recommended "booster" injection of one cc. to be given seven months after immunization. This problem is one that will have to be resolved by the States or local communities.

After the Foundation's contract has been filled, there will be two principal groups seeking vaccine:

- 1) State Health Departments -- for the purchase of vaccine for indigent children and persons in public, tax-supported institutions and those for whom the State has agreed to pay the costs.

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For Information