

REMARKS*

ATTACHMENT D

By
Oveta Culp Hobby
Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the President and of all the people whom your government serves, I welcome you to this meeting and thank you for coming here today.

Our mission is an important one, and although the problem which we hope to help solve is exceedingly complex, our role can be stated very simply. We are gathered here at the request of the President to seek out and consider all the available data with respect to the availability of the Salk vaccine. This technical information is essential to the report the President has directed that I make to him.

The ultimate purpose all of us have, of course, is to confer the greatest good on the greatest number of people to whom polio presents the greatest threat.

The announcement of the successful tests of the vaccine was made on April 12, and on April 14 the President directed his request for a study. In the brief space of the days that have passed, signs of considerable confusion, misunderstanding and anxiety exist concerning the availability, the distribution of the new vaccine. I am sure all of us would agree to that extent that all of us can contribute to minimizing the confusion we will be performing a public service, and an important public service.

Represented here today are the medical and public health professions, the pharmaceutical and drug industries and many other groups concerned with the problem.

I am happy to welcome all of you. I know you will understand when I extend a particularly warm welcome to the National Foundation for Infantile