

Vaccine invested large sums of money to insure that sizeable amounts of the vaccine would be available before the full impact of this year's polio season was felt.

The dramatic publicity accompanying the report of the vaccine's efficacy has aroused an enormous amount of public interest.

The supply of vaccine on hand now or likely to become available during the next few months is far short of the needs and demands. The theory exists in some quarters that sizeable amounts of vaccine may appear in black markets, that prices may rise beyond reason, and that, as a consequence, many individuals in the most susceptible age groups will not receive the preventive. Concern over these possibilities has been expressed by individual members of the Congress, and legislation has already been proposed which would require that the Federal Government supervise distribution of the vaccine.

These, as I have said, are the basic facts.

Without attempting to suggest a formal agenda, may I say that in my opinion there are two major questions which require the most careful kind of study.

First and foremost is the question of supply. I think it is fair to say that very great misapprehension exists at the present time concerning this central fact -- how soon, within the understandable limits of productive capacity, will there be sufficient supplies of vaccine to take care of the children of America. Second, there is the question of distribution -- what steps are necessary to assure that vaccine on hand goes first to the most susceptible age groups in the population.

We know that we can expect all pertinent data from this group with respect to the first question, and your thoughtful consideration in an attempt to find the answer to the second one.