

12 April 1957

Dr. Leo Szilard
The University of Chicago
Chicago 27, Illinois

Dear Doctor Szilard:

Thanks for the print you sent. It has been placed along with many others we have--it will be interesting to look back upon in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Jonas E. Salk, M. D.

lf

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
THE ENRICO FERMI INSTITUTE
FOR NUCLEAR STUDIES

April 17, 1957

Dr. Jonas Salk
Virus Research Laboratory
Municipal Hospital
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

Dear Salk,

You asked me when we were riding in the bus whether I would be in favor of compulsory vaccination against polio. After I left Gatlinburg there occurred to me what might be the right answer in this particular case. Here it is for what it is worth:

Compulsory old-age insurance; i.e. "social security" is now accepted by everybody with good grace. Why not go one step further and include in social security compulsory insurance of each child under twenty-one years of age against paralytic polio? Each child who comes down with paralytic polio would receive an amount of \$50,000. of compensation. The yearly premium for this insurance would correspond to the expected frequency of paralytic polio among unvaccinated children. Parents, who file with their income tax return a certificate for each child showing that it had been vaccinated three times, can free themselves from the payment of this premium (and are then not covered by insurance). For families with several children, and even for families with one child, this will represent a considerable financial inducement for vaccination.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard