

The White House
Washington

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1955 APR 15 PM 2 29

MY HOUSTON TEX APR 15 1955 1224PMC

THE PRESIDENT, ATTN JIM HAGERTY

THE WHITE HOUSE

NEWSPAPER PRESS RELEASE CREDITS YOU WITH ADVOCATING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL POLIO VACCINE EQUALLY AND BY POPULATION DENSITY. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO DEPLOYING AN ARMY ACCORDING TO POPULATION AND NOT WHERE AN ATTACK IS INEVITABLE. IN MANY AREAS-NOTABLY-CALIFORNIA, TEXAS, FLORIDA, MICHIGAN POLIO HAS OCCURRED AT AN EPIDEMIC RATE FOR FIVE STRAIGHT YEARS.

FURTHERMORE, THE EPIDEMIC ONSET IS MONTHS EARLIER IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE U.S.E.G. IN HARRIS COUNTY 25 CASES HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED. THESE CONSIDERATIONS OF CONCENTRATION OF DISEASE AND TIME ON ONSET SHOULD WEIGH DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL VACCINE JUST AS ITS ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR AGES FOR PEAK INCIDENCE

ADDENDUM

RANKING OF STATES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF CASES 1950 TO 1954
SOURCE U S PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND NFIP, INC CALIFORNIA ONE
NEW YORK TWO TEXAS THREE MICHIGAN FOUR, ILLINOIS FIVE

IN THE YEAR 1954 TEXAS, CALIF, MICHIGAN AND FLORIDA
ACCOUNTED FOR 11,692 CASES OF THE 38,741 REPORTED AND ALSO
HAD AN INCIDENCE RATE OF OVER 30 PER 100,000 POPULATION.
THUS THESE STATES HAD NOT ONLY A LARGE NUMBER OF CASES BUT A HIGH
INCIDENCE RATE

W A SPENCER MD SOUTHWESTERN POLIOMYELITUS RESPIRATORY CENTER
1801 BUFFALO DR HOUSTON TEX..