

February 7, 1985

W.B.1.1 1985

W.F. HELLE  
S.S. RISTON  
2/200  
TO: ALL EMPLOYEES  
Pearl River

THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION  
CONCERNING THE "20/20" BROADCAST ON DTP

Lederle declined ABC's invitation of an "on-camera" interview because of the uncertainty surrounding film editing. We provided them with information on the subject and Lederle's involvement in the production and research of DTP.

The program was based on fragmentary information used in an adversarial argument critical of several vaccine producers and does not represent scientifically accurate and balanced reporting.

The reporters suggest in this program that a better vaccine with less side effects should be available and in fact was available but has not been put into use. This statement does not appear logical. It makes neither medical, scientific nor economic sense not to market a superior product if it is feasible to do so.

OFFICIAL COMPANY POSITION

The present diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine is the safest vaccine that medical science can now provide. The medical community and federal authorities have consistently concluded that the benefits of this vaccine far outweigh the possible risks.

Reports to Lederle of any adverse effects associated with our vaccine have always been available to the government. The package insert sent to physicians with the vaccine contains prescribing information as well as reported adverse reactions.

There is no evidence that there is or ever was a vaccine with fewer severe reactions. Lederle and the medical scientific community here and abroad for many years tried to develop a pertussis vaccine that would provide full protection but with a lower potential for producing reactions of the kind associated with the current vaccine. Only recently has scientific progress in the understanding of the pertussis organism provided a new direction for the development of a potentially improved vaccine.

Lederle has been a pioneer in the development and production of vaccines since 1906. Our current research to improve the pertussis vaccine continues. We hope to begin clinical trials with an experimental vaccine later this year.

75612

Employee Communications Office

Addressograph List No. 2

Please post on Department Bulletin Boards until February 15, 1985.