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DONAHUE TRANSCRIPT #12222

APPEARANCES: Mr. Phil Donahue
Dr. Louis Z. Cooper
Dr. Robert S.
Mendelsohn
Dr. J. Anthony
Morris
Mrs. Marge Grant
Mrs. Wilma Gundy
Mrs. Emily Yankovich

Phil Donahue: Want to start me off, mom. Twenty two months he is.
It's a baby boy?

Audience: Yes.

Phil Donahue: Twenty-two months old.

Audience: Yes.

Phil Donahue: Healthy.

Audience: Very.

Phil Donahue: Good-looking.

Audience: Extremely.

Audience: (Laughter)

Phil Donahue: He must have his father's good looks because his mother
still has hers.

Audience: (Laughter)

Phil Donahue: Did you give your baby the DPT shot?

Audience: Yes, I did.

Phil Donahue: Uh, what is your understanding? Were you obliged to
give the baby the DPT shot or was it a voluntary position?

Audience: A little bit of both but I think I would have given it to
him. I like to protect him against every disease that I can.

Phil Donahue: At what age was---was he six months when he got it? When
was the first shot?

Audience: I don't remember.

Phil Donahue: Can't either. I know.

Audience: He has has so many I really can't remember.

Phil Donahue: Yeah. You're aware that there is some---it's not
terrifying enough now to be a parent but they are telling us---

Audience: To be worried about other things.

Phil Donahue: Yes. And they are suggesting that maybe DPT---

Audience: I really didn't know that until we were discussing it right
before the show. I didn't know there were so many dangerous side
effects.



Phil Donahue: Now we are not going to pretend on this program to solve all of the problems. It is possible that we will make you more anxious than you would have liked to be. It's possible that you will wish by the time this program is over that you would have arrived here on the day we had the male strippers.

Audience: (Laughter)

Phil Donahue: I mean that's a lot easier show to handle. So let us make it clear that while we are not claiming to be writing in granite here and there are no Solomons at hand, we do have a professional group of people here who will probably differ on some of the issues about which we will speak and we ask you to stay with us. As the mother of a twenty-two month old person you may have some more questions. Is she typical, Dr. Mendelsohn? Robert S. Mendelsohn, pediatrician, Michael Reese, Chicago, bigshot doctor who is going to come in again and make the entire medical community hysterical because it is suggested you are an overkiller. You come in and say everything about medicine is bad. Do you have grandchildren?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Three grandchildren, Phil.

Phil Donahue: Have they been immunized?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: They have not been immunized.

Phil Donahue: Nothing?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: One child had one tetanus shot but I have to tell you, Phil, that the latest evidence is that the tetanus shot is probably just water, because in reducing the reactivity of the shot they have also reduced---

Audience: (Laughter)

Phil Donahue: Wait a minute.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: In reducing the reaction to the shot the manufacturers have also reduced the capacity of the shot to produce immunity.

Phil Donahue: They diluted it you mean.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: But the most important thing that was said here today was this lady who said that she didn't know until she came here today the dangers of the shots. Because for forty years now doctors have not been telling patients the truth. The most important function that your program provides is that we give patients, you give patients, the kind of questions they can put to their doctors. I regard the Donahue Show as the best form of medical education today.

Phil Donahue: Tell that to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Audience: (Applause)

Phil Donahue: Okay.

Audience: I'm the mother of a three-year-old that is just starting school and before I took her to school they missed a DPT shot somewhere along the line; she was too sick to get it. The bottom line is they wouldn't let her in school without the DPT shot which they gave to her like recently. They backlogged it; it wasn't put down and the schools do not let children in. And they run temperatures from them. I think that anything they run a temperature from can't be good.

Phil Donahue: May I see the DPT graphic, Ronnie? We don't want to insult your intelligence. If you are a caring mother or father, anybody, you know what this is. But let's make sure we know what we are talking about. DPT stands for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Pertussis is whooping cough. And it is the P---now Dr. Mendelsohn wants you to know that he doesn't think you ought to take this at all, none of it. None of this alphabet soup he thinks you ought to take. Now he is not necessarily getting a standing ovation from the American Academy of Pediatrics for that but let's go back---

Phil Donahue: All right, some agree I'm sure.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: I have to tell you that next year I've been invited to be the keynote speaker for the American Medical Students Association and this is exactly what I am going to say to them.

Phil Donahue: I'm not saying you're a bad guy; I'm trying to establish that you are at the very least a controversial animal. I don't think you should necessarily apologize for that. It means that you are raising issues about which there is a considerable disagreement.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: I'm taking the stuff out of the medical journals and trying to lay it before the public.

Phil Donahue: Let me see that graphic one more time, Ronnie. It is the P, pertussis, about which there appears to be the most controversy and we'll get into that in a moment. Meet Louis Z. Cooper, M.D., another bigshot from the medical community. Director of Pediatrics, St. Luke-Roosevelt Hospital New York City, Chairman of the New York chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has been involved in vaccine research for the last twenty years and what's your opening shot, no pun intended, doctor.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: (Laughter)

Phil Donahue: How do you respond to what's---

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Phil, I am grateful that my colleague here gives us a chance to tell this audience how exciting it is to be part of a community where we don't fear polio, where we don't fear measles, where we don't fear rubella, where we don't fear pertussis the way we did when I was a boy and the way we did when I started medical school. I lived through watching patients die and watching patients be critically and crucially injured for many years with illnesses that now most of this audience don't know anything about except what they read in textbooks. That's a very happy circumstance and it's due to vaccines.

Audience: (Applause)

Phil Donahue: All right, here we go. J. Anthony Morris, PH.D.. Dr. Morris has been with us before. Here is the man who said to President Ford and others during the 1976 swine flu epidemic---remember when the President got his shot in the Oval Office and everybody ran out. Guillain-Barre' was just one of the suggested unfortunate reactions that literally thousands of people suffered following that immunization program about which Dr. Morris who was then with the FDA---

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: Food and Drug Administration.

Phil Donahue: You were with the FDA---disagreed. You also should know that he lost his job. And he is a vaccine researcher. What is your point?

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: If we make the assumption that what Dr. Cooper said is so that does not do away with the point raised by that lady. Now in a recent editorial in the most recent issue of the state medical journal of my state, Maryland, there is an editorial there that says we cannot accept the pertussis vaccine as it now is. That is that if there

that improvement will take place. So we are not saying what Dr. Cooper says is not so. What we are saying is it could be better and the dangers that are associated with the use of pertussis vaccine could be done away with.

Phil Donahue: What are the dangers?

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: The dangers are that you might suffer serious neurologic damage.

Phil Donahue: It causes seizure in some cases?

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: It causes seizure, it causes the inability to use muscles, as you have in the audience today Scotty who shows that.

Phil Donahue: As you know, there was a good deal of publicity in Great Britain about immunization and Fleet Street got on this in the early 70's and boy the hysteria and suddenly Great Britain went from a percentage of 80% of the population---Ronnie, this is on visual #710 if we can just see the graphic on this. From 1947 to 1974 about 80% of the population of Great Britain was immunized. Then the media got on this thing much as the Donahue Show is doing now, trying very hard to be responsible, unlike apparently what happened in Britain, and so a significant number of people in the UK backed away from immunization and guess what? A pertussis epidemic in 1977 and 1978 significant numbers of whooping cough cases. Then they got back on it and in 1982 there were 50,000 pertussis cases in the United Kingdom with twelve deaths. That certainly does appear to---

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: Let me tell you what happened in my state following a broadcast by NBC concerning pertussis vaccine. There was several months thereafter a public release from the state health department in Maryland saying that there was an outbreak of pertussis in our state and we believe that this outbreak might have resulted from the reluctance of parents to have their children immunized against pertussis. I got from the state department of health the data that they had got off the computer which served as the basis of a news release. There was no outbreak of pertussis in the state of Maryland.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Why, Tony?

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: In the cases that did occur they occurred in vaccinated children for the most part who had received the vaccine according to the recommended procedure. They said there was forty-one cases of pertussis. There could not have been more than five cases of pertussis and each of these five cases occurred in children who had been vaccinated.

Phil Donahue: You're suggesting that maybe DPT caused them to get whooping cough?

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is that when parents are aware of the dangers associated with pertussis vaccine that this awareness does not result in an outbreak of pertussis because they are aware of the dangers of the vaccine. That's the impression that the state of Maryland gave.

Phil Donahue: Meet Marge Grant. Mrs. Grant is the mother of Scott Grant who is at hand. Scott is twenty-one years old. These are all polysyllabic words and I'm sure, Mrs. Grant, that it's okay if I proceed to give these folks just a very very brief evaluation of Scott's condition. He is a spastic quadriplegic and you are saying in fact twenty-one years ago today---we should say that Scott is, although certainly somewhat limited in his own motor ability and mental capacity, is still a real good boy and obviously a very good looking young man who the audience should know has the motor activity development of about a nine month old.

Ms. Marge Grant: Exactly.

Phil Donahue: And the mental capacity of about?

Ms. Marge Grant: Seven years of age in understanding only.

Phil Donahue: And it was twenty years ago today?

Ms. Marge Grant: Phil, it is exactly twenty-one years ago this morning at 5:30 that he reacted severely after his third shot which was given twelve hours earlier.

Phil Donahue: Third shot, the DPT?

Ms. Marge Grant: DPT, right. It was the third shot he received on the seventh of December and the following morning around 5:30 he woke up earlier than usual and I was fixing his breakfast and all of a sudden he was in his infant seat and he clinched his fist and his head went back and he fairly yelled as if to say I'm falling, catch me. And to this very day he is very very sensitive to falling.

Phil Donahue: Right. Now you attempted to litigate Scott's case and were not successful. Apparently your witnesses were not able to convince the judge or the jury of the absolute causality between the DPT and Scott's seizure.

Ms. Marge Grant: Really, that wasn't the issue. At the time of the trial I could not prove that Scott had received Parke-Davis' product because even though the doctor at the time he administered it told me it was Quadrigin which was DPT plus polio combined and was put out by Parke-Davis. He did not record it on Scott's record.

Phil Donahue: I see. So the gray area in the court then was not was caused his medical condition but what brand product.

Ms. Marge Grant: Right. So I lost my suit against Parke-Davis. However, we had five experts which did indeed treat Scott and see Scott and they said indeed it was the DPT that hurt him.

Phil Donahue: You are also proud of the fact that your litigation provoked legislation in the state of Wisconsin which obliges all immunizations now to be identified by lot number and manufacturer.

Ms. Marge Grant: That's only as of the last year. That also includes the fact that now we do have a personal waiver conviction. We do not have to take it in the state of Wisconsin. But it was a group of us that petitioned the legislature.

Phil Donahue: Do you understand, Dr. Cooper's point here that as much as we can empathize with the pain and the significant interruption in your own family life in every way that this has caused you, he wants you to know that there are thousands and thousands of people out there who have been spared similar difficulty because of immunology. And that the numbers indicate that while there are questions certainly when you inoculate this many millions of people, the thing works. We don't get diphtheria anymore and there is very little whooping cough, not to mention tetanus.

Ms. Marge Grant: Phil, I want to just say this. I have done a fair amount of research in the last twenty-one years and it proves clearly that the government is at fault. The government has not forced the manufacturer to remove the component that is causing this neurological damage.

Phil Donahue: Which one is that?

Ms. Marge Grant: The pertussis, the whooping cough component.

Phil Donahue: You're convinced that it was the P in DPT that caused this problem for your son.

Ms. Marge Grant: I have no question nor do the experts.

Phil Donahue: Dr. Cooper, we do have significant medical testimony indicating that the pertussis feature of DPT is a rather unstable mixture of chemistry about which we really know very little. And Dr. Morris wants you to know that he thinks that the pertussis problem really almost disappears after two months of age, and you don't give it until the kid is two months.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: I don't know what Tony would say but pertussis is a problem not just for the two month old but for children of all ages. It's a bigger problem for the children under a year of age. One of the reasons we start the vaccine at age two months is to try to provide some degree of protection as soon as possible.

Phil Donahue: Yeah.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: I agree with Mrs. Grant that it probably was the pertussis vaccine that caused Scott's awful problem.

Phil Donahue: Well, then why do we have the P in pertussis? Why don't we just sell DT?

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Because until we can produce a vaccine which is safer than the one we have---

Phil Donahue: You think we have to do this.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: ---we every year will be saving hundreds and thousands of lives by using what we've got. We need a better pertussis vaccine and there has to be more research to help us find a better vaccine. That vaccine has been improved very little in thirty years.

Phil Donahue: Dr. Mendelsohn.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Do you think that doctors should tell patients that I'm going to give you the whooping cough vaccine and if I give it to you you might turn out to be like Scott with encephalomyelopathy and mental retardation and cerebral palsy and convulsions and in a shock like state. Do you think that doctors should be telling that to patients or should doctors be hiding that from patients as they have done for forty years?

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Bob, I don't think doctors should hide anything from their patients.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Then you tell me, why haven't they been telling that to patients. Why is it that this audience here---

Phil Donahue: The first woman who stood up said that she was not aware of any problem.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Now that information is available but people can't go to medical journals, although if they want they can read Tony Morris's publication, they can read my publications. There is a lot of things they can read.

Phil Donahue: The other problem, Dr. Mendelsohn is---I mean how would you like to be the mother in the pediatrician's office after he says now we have the DPT, I recommend it because we really have diminished---but you should also know---and then he takes out a poster of a child in a wheelchair who has got a mental capacity of seven years at age twenty-one. I mean what kind of blackmail is that.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Then if I'm the mother or father then I have to ask the pediatrician some questions. I have to say to him what is the incidence of these reactions.

Phil Donahue: You want numbers.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: The pediatrician will then say it's one in a million and then you say to the pediatrician, "oh, but Dr. Mendelsohn has shown me evidence from the medical journals that turns out to prove that the incidence of convulsions is one in a hundred. The incidence of severe mental permanent defect is one in a thousand".

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Oh, come on.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: The information is in the medical journals. The only problem is the American doctors don't report it because they are so afraid of malpractice suits. But if you to the foreign literature which is now appearing in all the law cases because just like your case there are now hundreds of law causes working their way through the court.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Bob, come on.

Phil Donahue: Hang on for a second. Let's get this in. Sweden no longer obliges parents to administer DPT shots. Right? Sweden is off, West Germany is off. What about---

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Twenty-one states in this country.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: And Britain is off.

Phil Donahue: They give you an option.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: They give you an option.

Phil Donahue: And here is a woman who ran into the entire bureaucracy of the whole school system because her kid didn't have his card. The kid is four years old and got to have a card!

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Phil, a democratic society is a complex venture and I don't know a simple solution to give individual freedom and also protect---

Phil Donahue: I want to get you in here in just one second.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Also protect folks.

Phil Donahue: Dr. Morris give me your pertussis speech. Your briefest speech.

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: Dr. Cooper said something that is very important. There has been no improvement of pertussis vaccine for forty years. There has been no effort on the part of the government to enforce this improvement until recently following that pertussis program that was broadcast within recent months. Following that, as I just said, before I came here there was a notice in my mail that the government is now setting up an organization to improve the pertussis vaccine. That was forced upon them by that broadcast, as your broadcast will force them to do something too. When Bob Mendelsohn says that a doctor does not inform the dangers associated with the use of this vaccine that will force it.

Phil Donahue: And you can also get DT can't you.

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: Yes.

Phil Donahue: In other words, is that an option? I assume it depends on the legislations in the states at which the request is made.

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: That is an option, yes.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: That's an option but the government admits that the DT vaccine is probably no good.

Phil Donahue: I'm running a little long here and I promise I'll give you a chance. Honest, doctor, we real good to doctors on this program. But I have Wilma Gundy here. Mrs. Gundy developed Guillain-Barre' Syndrome after receiving the swine flu vaccine six years ago. She is the person who responded to the Ford Administration's call "the swine flu is coming, the swine flu is coming, we have to get vaccinated." And she did. She is one of literally thousands of people who contracted this disease, syndrome I should call it, and incidentally, more than a hundred lawyers in the Justice Department have worked overtime just handling the litigation that was provoked by this.

Ms. Wilma Gundy: And we intend to keep them working.

Phil Donahue: You had the shot on November?

Ms. Wilma Gundy: November 26th, 1976.

Phil Donahue: And when did you first feel numbness?

Ms. Wilma Gundy: I started feeling numbness three weeks and one day later. On the twenty-second day all at once my feet and legs and hands and arms began to turn numb.

Phil Donahue: Okay, we are not trying to scare you to death but we have to get this in, Dr. Cooper. Certainly Mrs. Gundy steps forward as dramatic evidence to the fact that the medical community even abetted by the President of the United States and an august panel of immunologists and clinicians and researchers does not necessarily in every case make the right decision. It certainly appears---first of all, we didn't even have any swine flu. We didn't need the vaccine in the first place. The numbers and the research that went into suggesting that it was coming were flawed and now steps forward this taxpaying American to say why should I believe anything.

Ms. Wilma Gundy: Plus, I was not given any information about the amount of benefits versus the risks. When I finally did some research on my own I found out I had actually twenty-eight chances in one thousand of having any benefits at all from the vaccine. They did not tell me about the risks that were involved. They did not tell me that I might develop a neurological disorder at all. They particularly, and this is where I think that they were most faulted, routinely the drug companies sent a flyer to the doctors with the vaccine that people who were allergic to feathers should not take this vaccination. I was never given that information.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: People who take the measles vaccine aren't given the information that the measles vaccine can lead to mental retardation, that the German Measles vaccine can lead to arthritis.

Phil Donahue: Yes. In some people. Let's see how much sense we can make here with an audience who has more than just a single question for all of you and I'll give you that chance. Immunology, vaccinations. You know our kids today DPT, measles, polio, rubella. And if you are not confused enough here come the folks saying maybe aspirin shouldn't be given to children when they have a fever because of Reye's Syndrome. I'll tell you, being a parent today is an outright act of courage. And we hope you'll join us.

*****STATION BREAK*****

Phil Donahue: Yes, ma'am.

Audience: I went yesterday to the library when I found out what the

topic would be today to find out what I could on immunizations and the dangers. I could find nothing in readers guide periodicals which would be the magazine articles on the dangers. The only time I've ever heard anything was through the media and it was the DPT scare which petrified me. I thought I had killed my child with immunization. And we don't know where to turn. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't. You don't know what to do. What's the answer? Yes or no?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: I will be happy to send you and anyone else who wants it a free copy of my newsletter that deals with the risks of immunizations, that gives articles from inside the medical journals, which I agree with you are not generally available to the public.

Phil Donahue: Dr. Cooper.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: I am recommending now that if there is any person in this audience who decides to give their kid a DPT shot the least they can do is to write down when the kid gets the shot, the name of the manufacturer, the expiration date and the batch number, so that in case something happens later on they won't get into the situation you got into. At least they will know who the hell to sue.

Phil Donahue: Dr. Cooper please.

Audience: (Applause)

Audience: Doctor, just how are you going to find that out? The doctor---

Phil Donahue: The doctor has got the box there.

Audience: That's right. And I have never seen the doctor show me the box or the bottle. How do you find that out?

Phil Donahue: Wisconsin is just one of the states that obliges the recording of the particular lot number and the manufacturer. So we are getting smart. We are slow---

Audience: But what do we do in Illinois.

Ms. Marge Grant: You say I insist that you record this, and believe me it is important.

Phil Donahue: Let's get Dr. Cooper in here.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: There are a couple of issues. First of all, almost half the vaccine given in this country is given in public programs. It's now the law that anyone who gets a vaccine in a public program has to be given this pamphlet called IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VACCINES.

Phil Donahue: Yeah, but you've got to have a magnifying glass to read it I'll bet.

Audience: You can't read it.

Phil Donahue: No, no, his point is that you can read it.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Everyone is handed and must receive important information about the vaccines which includes the risks and the benefits. I would suggest that you ask your pediatrician for information.

Ms. Marge Grant: Phil, this is the crux, the private physician does not have to give you this. And this is why I am saying it should be a mandate from the federal level that everybody must record this information.

Ms. Wilma Gundy: For instance I had certain information that did me no good at all.

Phil Donahue: Yes.

Audience: Right before I started kindergarten when I was five I was given the shots you are supposed to be given, including the measles and a little while after I got the measles shot I developed this thing: my hands would just freeze up and terrible pain and I would wake up crying. I remember my mother and I soaking them in water and things. The doctor only after this happened that is when he told me that this could be a side effect. We never knew before.

Phil Donahue: Yeah, but obviously you sustained no brain damage. But Dr. Mendelsohn wants you to know that you came awfully close to the possibly. That is what he is saying.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: You sure did and I have to tell you you've learned a good lesson which I can't tell you how happy I am that it's being transmitted today to the entire American population because the doctors haven't told people the truth about DES or ultra-sound or X-rays and now they are getting the truth as a result today about immunization.

Phil Donahue: Okay. Let me just get one more guest in here. Meet Emily Yankovich. Mrs. Yankovich is the mother of Abra who is how old.

Ms. Emily Yankovich: She is three and a half. Abra.

Phil Donahue: Abra cannot be with us today because apparently she sustained episodic seizures.

Ms. Emily Yankovich: Yes. Abra was normal up to the age of four months and she had her second DPT. And as her parents---

Phil Donahue: We have a photograph, Ron.

Ms. Emily Yankovich: That photograph is when Abra was normal yet, when she was about three months old. She had had one DPT already and apparently she was all right, we assumed that she was all right. It wasn't until her second DPT that we noticed that there was obviously a problem.

Phil Donahue: What did you see?

Ms. Emily Yankovich: On the day that she had her DPT shot she had a seizure. We didn't know it was a seizure but we knew something was wrong because she was turning blue and shaking and she was obviously in distress. So it was my only child, our first child, but I still knew something was wrong so we rushed her to the emergency room and by the time we got there she was all right. We told the doctor that she had her DPT, was there any connection. He said that it looked like just a choking incident. From that point on for the next nine months we told every doctor we saw, neurologists included, that she had had her DPT. We felt there was a connection. For two weeks after that initial reaction from our daughter we didn't see anything. We didn't see anything; there may have been something. But two weeks later she had grand mal seizures and she was in critical state for forty-eight hours. To this day Abra---like Sunday she had fifty seizures. She has many as hundreds of seizures a day. She is very heavily drugged. She can't walk, she can't talk, she can't even chew but she is very responsive. That picture---

Phil Donahue: You would not guess that looking at that picture.

Ms. Emily Yankovich: She is very responsive to people and she has full motor use but her brain isn't making the connection that she can use them so she doesn't walk and she doesn't talk. She is thoroughly disabled.

Phil Donahue: Have you sued anybody?

Ms. Emily Yankovich: WE have a case.

Phil Donahue: Pending?

Audience: There is something I have to say---

Phil Donahue: Can you imagine how thrilled the pharmaceutical companies are with this. Now here's the problem. Let's try and be responsible here. Nobody is here to say that the roulette wheel doesn't spin when you accept a vaccine. The question is what provides the greatest---there is all kinds of questions---what provides the greatest common good. How much is the medical community sharing information with each other about possible problems? How much does the inevitable interest of the pharmaceutical industry weigh in the decision on the part of the physician to administer these? Why does it have to be a law? Should we have the freedom to decide whether or not and for the sake of Dr. Cooper and those who think that we've come a long way to eradicate problems of diseases here are three mothers who wish they had had the immunization available to them at the time. The first mother the mother of a child with measles. Obviously the fever must have got up and brain damage occurred. The other two mothers you will see on this tape were exposed to rubella during pregnancy. This is sad but this is the other side of this coin. Roll tape.

(Tape): Mother #1: She has brain damage from the measles and we don't think that she will ever improve.

Mother #2: The rubella vaccine came four years too late for us.

Mother #3: For a woman to have a child like this today is a senseless tragedy for herself, for her family, for everyone involved.

END OF TAPE

Phil Donahue: The last two children then were victimized by the mother's exposure to rubella during pregnancy. The first child had measles. So now what?

Ms. Emily Yankovich: There are so many things here. When my husband and I talk about this we realize that vaccinations will always be given. We feel that is a fact. But we were uninformed as parents. We went into the doctor's office like every other mother. I have dozens of friends who have babies and they all went in and got their shots but one of them knew there could be devastating results either from the disease or from the vaccine. So I went in ignorant, I knew nothing about the possible side effects and we didn't have the option of making the decision as parents pro and con. We would like to have had the facts and made the decision as the parents of our daughter and lived with the consequences then. If we had decided on the vaccine we would live with the consequences.

Phil Donahue: There must be real anger about that ignorance. That is what really enrages you.

Ms. Emily Yankovich: Yes, because we know there are cases like was just shown that they have side effects from the disease itself but we feel too, that there are many many more children who are affected adversely than any one ever knows. We have been in dozens of hospitals and we have seen children on these children's floors with seizures; learning disabilities and no one knows why. But even a nurse told us this: she told us that her child had seizures after the DPT but she didn't even know that there could be such a reaction until we told her. So this is how we feel.

Phil Donahue: There are also reports---these are reports---that there are pediatricians who are giving DPTs and not giving them to their children or administering DPTs and taking the P out of the DPT for their own children. We'll be back in just a moment.

*****STATION BREAK*****

Phil Donahue: We're back. Yes, ma'am, you'll stand.

Audience: I have empathy for the lady with the son but my son had polio and he got it November of 1956. January of 1957 the Salk Vaccine came out and I'm sorry it was too late for him. But it is devastating and I know that some people say well they got a mild case of polio with the vaccine but it was nothing like the paralysis. My son had many operations and he is all right now but even like penicillin can help some people and some one else can have a reaction.

Phil Donahue: Running out of time.

Ms. Marge Grant: There is no way that we would say all vaccines should be done away with. It's just that I think the public needs to be informed, we need to be told the benefits versus the risks. We need to know what we are facing.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Well, the doctor's side of the polio vaccine and what nobody knows is that Jonas Salk has pointed out in the last ten years in this country two thirds of all the cases of polio have been vaccine induced.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: How many cases is that?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: And only---

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: How many cases, Bob!

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Would you not interrupt me for a second?

Audience: (Laughter)

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: I know that doctors are used to interrupting patients but not another doctor.

Audience: (Boo)

Phil Donahue: But he does make a point. We should also say that Sabin is live vaccine and Salk is---

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Is inactive.

Phil Donahue: Is inactive as we say in the laboratory. How many was it they asked?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: How many people know that the European epidemic of polio there were about twenty or thirty cases in this country. Now of course the American doctors will argue that the reason why polio disappeared in this country was because of the vaccine. But then why did it disappear in Europe in the 1940's and the 1950's without mass vaccination? Why doesn't it occur in the Third World where only 10% of the people have ever been immunized against polio or anything else?

Phil Donahue: So in other words, we may be fighting a tiger that died.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: That is quite correct.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Ask the people in Great Britain, ask the people in Japan who---

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: All---

Phil Donahue: Back here. Gentlemen, if you please. I've got probably the smartest audience we've ever had.

Audience: I have a question: how long a delayed action, if any, would you connect this with like MS?

Phil Donahue: Is MS a possibility? Would Multiple Sclerosis be one of the possible results?

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: As a matter of fact, there is a new publication that just came out from John Hoffman who is a close associate of Tony Morris, that gives the references linking MS in later life to the early introduction of live virus vaccines like measles and like some of the others that are live viruses. Now at the present time I would recommend that anybody who has MS or any myotropic sclerosis or any of those degenerative neurologic conditions of later life carefully review their vaccine histories.

Ms. Wilma Gundy: I would also like to comment to that because in connection with my case I've been doing some research---

Phil Donahue: Let me tell them once again, Ms. Gundy that you are a Guillain-Barre' victim contracted following your receipt of the swine flu vaccination in 1976.

Ms. Wilma Gundy: Yes, and I am in the process of writing a book about my experience and in the process I've done considerable research. And from what I have learned it looks as though immunizations frequently cause auto immune diseases, not only Guillain-Barre' Syndrome but Lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and other types of things. Now I have no data at this point to back it up.

Phil Donahue: We should also say there is a good deal of evidence suggesting that Multiple Sclerosis may be the result of distemper in an animal that the victim received during childhood. None of this is absolutely nailed to the wall but that is the problem with this. What's a mother to do with all of these balls in the air and nobody really certain.

Ms. Wilma Gundy: I would also like to comment that we had 46,000,000 people vaccinated with the swine flu shot and I have written to Ralph Nader's organization, I have written to some of the government organizations trying to get them to do a long going survey to see if these vaccinations do cause auto immune diseases and what the reactions are. I can't even get a response because I'm not a doctor, I have no clout, I'm a nobody.

Phil Donahue: Mrs. Grant, why were you shaking your head?

Ms. Marge Grant: Phil, it isn't only with that vaccine but it's with all vaccines. They are not interested in the adverse reactions. As a matter of fact, I would like to invite anyone to write to me if they have had an adverse reaction. I would like to help the government because they don't want to know but I would like to know.

Phil Donahue: Back here.

Audience: I am a mother of three children and I have been informed and I have read up on these things and I chose not to vaccinate my children but when they get to school why is it that I have to fight for my rights as a mother and the choice I've made.

Phil Donahue: Let me just quickly---we're long but that is a very important question. Here are the states in which you either have the totally free decision about whether or not to vaccinate or there are loophole states, states where they are not going to send your child to

solitary if you don't have his card. All right, California. Not all children must be immunized in these states. Some require religious reasons. Some places there is a bureaucratic thing you have to go through to prove that you are this or that. Others it's probably easier. So just for the sake of simplifying this: Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. If your state is not on there it means that your child is going to be left at the kindergarten door feeling very very much an outcast because he didn't get his immunization shots. And we'll be back in just a moment.

*****STATION BREAK*****

Phil Donahue: Yes.

Audience: I would like to say that I think it's the American people's responsibility that they should ask the doctor and the nurses before any injection is given to the child.

Audience: (Applause)

Audience: Should it be given or should it not. The doctors don't have time to tell you; you should ask.

Phil Donahue: The doctors what?

Audience: I'm a registered nurse and I don't think the doctors have a lot of time to go in and say this is all the things that can happen to your child. I think they should say it's the mother's responsibility to say hey, doctor, I would like to know.

Audience: (Applause)

Audience: Ma'am, on my child's last DPT shot I did ask. He was not given the P he was only given the DT. I was not given an answer as to why the P was taken out nor was I given an answer to what are the chances of whooping cough and can it be cured if my child got it.

Phil Donahue: What state?

Audience: Here.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Phil, I got to jump in. The issue is one of balance and perspective and we shouldn't forget that there were 50,000 cases of polio in 1955. This year---Bob didn't answer the question---there are seven cases of polio in the United States this year. There have been an average of roughly a dozen for the last six or eight years. In Great Britain they've had over a hundred thousand cases of pertussis in the last five years. Five or six percent of those cases of pertussis had convulsions. 5,000 kids were hospitalized. Yes, there were more deaths among the less than one year olds than the others. There are a couple of other points.

Phil Donahue: Let's also say that Dade County, Florida, south Florida, has sustained of late a measles epidemic---epidemic means millions that isn't what it means. There are a significant number of cases in Dade County, not the kind of alarming numbers we used to know before the vaccine.

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: But most of those cases occurred in vaccinated children.

Phil Donahue: Is that right?

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: In Dade County.

Phil Donahue: One would be---the amateur analyst would conclude that it might have to do with refugees who may not have been inoculated in their own country.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: They are trying to blame it on the refugees but what Tony Morris said is absolutely correct. I want to ask you one question. All your statistics why doesn't the doctor tell that to the patient? Why doesn't the doctor say to them this is your chance on this side this is the chance on this side?

Audience: (Light applause)

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: There are so many hours in the day and we try. We try.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: That nurse---

Audience: I asked! I specifically asked!

Phil Donahue: This woman stood up to say the doctor doesn't have time and you have said there are so many hours in the day. The feeling we get---not among all the people in your beloved industry but among many---is that your job is to do and to push and to wrap things around our arm and to either send us to the hospital or to the drug store. Your job is not to talk to us and it's that attitude that is making life so miserable for your whole industry today.

Audience: (Applause)

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Phil, I think you are right. We have to have doctors who both talk with patients and listen to them. One of the things we try to train our pediatricians in training is that their most important job is educating parents to be competent parents. That includes all this.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: You try but you don't succeed.

Phil Donahue: Yes, ma'am.

Audience: There was a comment about Reye's Syndrome and aspirin and I think I would really like to hear more about that because my children are at an age now when they are getting fevers from school and so forth.

Phil Donahue: We have very little time and we're going to start another fight but we'll do it. We'll do that in just a moment.

*****STATION BREAK*****

Phil Donahue: We should give them the pop on that. That is the Dissatisfied Parents Together, DPT, not surprisingly. That is Box 563. This is your effort to encourage those that feel they might have sustained family crisis because of vaccination to communicate with each other. 1377 Kay Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. You get a lot more done if you got a crowd out in front of city hall.

Ms. Marge Grant: Anyone can write to me also. I will be happy to hear from them, especially if you've had adverse reactions.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: As a matter of fact, the next time they come to you and ask for a contribution for the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society we should tell them that we are going to give our contributions to your organization instead.

Ms. Marge Grant: That's great.

Phil Donahue: Oh, they are going to love you for that.

Audience: (Laughter)

Phil Donahue: Give us your briefest speech regarding Reye's Syndrome and it's possible link with aspirin ingestion during fever in childhood.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: Well, the American Academy of Pediatrics today is trying to get out from under. They are trying to say there is no link between aspirin and Reye's Syndrome because they are so scared of lawsuits that might come up. As far as I am concerned I advise you and every other parent to pay attention to the media today because their reports on Reye's Syndrome are more accurate than those of the medical journals.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Bob, that's a cheap shot.

Audience: (Applause)

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: The members of the Academy have spent hundreds of hours trying to look at the information relating to Reye's Syndrome and whether or not aspirin may play a causal role. The answers aren't completely in yet and what pediatricians have been advised to do is to tell their parents to be prudent about the use of aspirin. Most of the aspirin that we use for children really isn't necessary. The answers aren't in. We are doing the best we can to get a clearer picture. In the meantime, be prudent.

Phil Donahue: Here's the problem though, Dr. Cooper. It is not absolutely clear that you are doing the best you can to find out whether there is a link. That we really are terribly disorganized in every sense in this country. We've got a fragmented country. So it's kind of hard to be indignant about your discipline but I don't think you are any different. The problem with you is that when you are not together we hurt more because of the potential damage of not sharing. CDC in Atlanta may or may not be talking to people. How many statistics are being gathered? How many blind studies are being done? How much information---

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Not enough, Phil.

Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn: There was enough evidence on Reye's Syndrome---

Phil Donahue: Once more we've got another doctor coming forward saying, "we're doing our best, be prudent."

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: We need to do more, Phil, and this public has to ask for more and this public has to tell its legislatures it can't cut---

Phil Donahue: We need more doctors who are not quite as defensive, who are open to the improvements that have to be made.

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Of course we do.

Phil Donahue: Dr. Morris.

Dr. J. Anthony Morris: The evidence that was presented to Secretary Schweikert as to the the relationship between aspirin and Reye's Syndrome convinced him that there should be a label on aspirin. The pharmaceutical company got together and lobbied and did away with that notification. As of now Secretary Schweart has backed away from that position that he took during the evidence.

Phil Donahue: Is the caller there?

Caller: Yes.

Phil Donahue: Not much time.

Caller: I would like to say, first of all, that I am terrified that at the fact that learning that after the third shot the one woman's boy got the symptoms of having neurological damage. I felt that with my eight and a half month old daughter that once she got the first shot and she was fine that I was safe, that she wasn't going to have any problems. I'm surprised to hear that this could happen next time she gets a shot. Do the chances get less as the child gets older or what? Am I going to have to go through this fear all the time?

Phil Donahue: You're talking about Emily Yankovich.

Caller: Right.

Ms. Emily Yankovich: With our daughter it happened after the second shot but it can happen after any immunization. There is even evidence that problems can show up later in life but they are not proven statistics so there is nothing that we can say for sure. But you have to be aware of that and also if your children have any if there is any history of central nervous system disorders in the family, any neurological problems in the family or any seizures in the family a child should never get pertussis.

Audience: I just want to know instead of aspirin should we give our children Tylenol. Is there a difference?

Phil Donahue: Bob, I'm afraid I don't have the time for you to answer that entirely and we'll be back in just a moment.

*****STATION BREAK*****

Phil Donahue: Going to try not to make you crazy. The issue of Tylenol or acetaminophen versus aspirin and whether or not it causes Reye's Syndrome when applied to children with fever is still debated. Some people say that the acetaminophen helps, some say they make it worse. So we are in no position to resolve that.

Audience: Our two year old died of (unintelligible) influenza meningitis after a DPT polio shot five days after he received the shot. Is there any relationship to the shot and the illness?

Dr. Louis Z. Cooper: Not as far as we know.

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