patched agents to seize Procter & Gamble's Citrus Hill Fresh Choice orange juice from a Minnesota warehouse after the company ignored demands to remove the term "fresh" from its label because the juice had been processed.

Kessler took his critics in stride, but it was known that his family had grown tired of Washington politics. His wife, Paulette, had joked on several occasions that "whenever there's a rumor that David is leaving, everyone thinks I started it." Even Kessler himself would make light of the unique nature of Washington, saying that he "couldn't wait to get home every night, get into the shower, and wash off the dirt."

MARLENE CIMONS
Washington, DC

Choosing a polio vaccine is tricky business

Polio has been described as "the AIDS of the first half of the 20th century," when yearly cases of the severe paralytic form peaked at over 20,000. The beginning of the end for "wild" polio came in 1955 with the introduction of Jonas Salk's inactivated polio virus (IPV) vaccine. The killed virus, injected intravenously, reduced the annual number of polio cases to 2,525 by 1960. The following year, Albert Sabin produced a live but attenuated oral polio vaccine (OPV) which, because of its ease of administration, rapidly became the vaccine of choice. By 1965, the annual number of polio cases had plummeted to 61, and since 1979 all

reported cases in the United States — about 8 per year — have either been imported or caused by OPV itself.

In the wake of the destruction caused by wild polio, such a small number of vaccine-associated cases seemed an acceptable price to pay. However, there is a growing call to eliminate all forms of polio — both wild and vaccine-related. To that end, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, issued a recommendation last June that the four required vaccine doses be split between IPV and OPV.

There are some concerns about the new emphasis on IPV. Aside from the higher cost (about US\$3 more than OPV per dose), IPV has another, perhaps significant, shortcoming: it does not induce immunity in the intestinal tract, where the polio virus first comes into contact with the host. As a result, there is concern that the immunity conferred by IPV is less than 100 percent.

But researchers at Pasteur Merieux Connaught (Swiftwater, PA), which manufactures and sells an enhanced IPV developed in 1988, are convinced that IPV is the wave of the future. "Our data indicate that the enhanced IPV and OPV are equally effective in providing an immune response . . . It's really the medical community who sees [IPV] as inconvenient [because it must be injected]," says Len Lavenda, director of public affairs at Connaught. Lavenda points out that IPV has effectively eradicated polio in France (which mounted a campaign to eliminate all forms of polio in 1983) as well as several Scandinavian countries.

The issue of which vaccine to use may ultimately hinge on local conditions, according to Jim Meegan, virology program officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland. As long as doctors can get people to comply with an injectable vaccine, IPV does appear likely to replace OPV, at least in the developed world. But Meegan points out that there are significant concerns in the undeveloped world. And as the World Health Organization moves forward with its campaign to eradicate polio worldwide by the year 2000, which vaccine protocols should be followed are likely to be the focus of continued debate.

JAMES KLING
Seattle, Washington

In the image and likeness of God: Always?

"It is not the role of the state to decide who shall live and who shall die." These words, spoken by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (prefect of the Roman Catholic Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) opened a remarkable conference held recently in Vatican City. Entitled "In the image and likeness of God: Always? Disturbances of the human mind," this international and ecumenical conference featured talks from a roster of internationally renowned physicians, psychologists, theologians, sociologists and research scientists including Erwin Neher, a physiology/medicine Nobel Laureate.

Organized by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, the stated purpose of the meeting was to examine all facets of mental illness:

the biological basis and medical aspects of mental disorders such as depression, schizophrenia and dementia; the role of the family in the care of patients; the contribution of social factors, including substance abuse; and methods for instigating protective legislation. "I was very impressed by the breadth of the conference. Talks ranged from membrane physiology and molecular neurobiology to phenomenology, treatment, and social and cultural issues related to mental health," says Julio Licinio from the

National Institute of Mental Health, who presented a talk on the biology and psychology of depression.

In addition to professional talks, conferencees were addressed by several politicians and diplomats, including the Honorable Giulio Andreotti, former prime minister of Italy and currently senator of the Italian Republic, and Hiroshi Nakajima, the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

The nearly eight thousand delegates from 113 countries included physicians (in particular psychiatrists), neurologists, general practitioners, nurses, members of the clergy involved in health care, as well as the Cardinals of the Holy See, Vatican clergy and ambassadors to the Holy See. In keeping with the international flavor of the meeting, talks were simultaneously translated

into four languages: French, Italian, English and Spanish.

The conference ended with an address by Pope John Paul II, who told participants that "the answer to the interrogative [in the meeting title] is clear: whoever suffers from mental illness holds the 'image and likeness of God' as every other man. Moreover, he has the inalienable right not only to be considered as the 'image of God' and thus as a person, but also to be treated as such [translation]."

ORLA SMITH

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