

# INFANT DEATH FUNDS ASKED

## State To Seek \$750,000 For Immunological Studies

The state's chief medical examiner said last night that he is preparing to seek a \$750,000 federal research grant that could lead to prevention of sudden infant deaths.

Dr. Russell S. Fisher, the medical examiner, told about 90 persons attending a meeting of the Guild for Infant Survival that "if we can discover the functional competency of in-

fants who die suddenly, then by golly we can prevent it."

He termed the five-year project "costly," explaining that it would entail "difficult forms of investigation."

### Federal Financing Possible

Dr. Fisher said "no one else has put the research project in writing," adding that he will submit the proposal for federal financing by a June 15 deadline.

The research was called "extremely exciting" by Dr. Frank T. Falkner, the associate director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Dr. Fisher explained that Dr. Falkner had been specially invited to the public meeting to hear the medical examiner's plans. Federal financing, he

said, would come from the institute.

"Dr. Falkner has encouraged me to submit the proper application" for a federal grant, Dr. Fisher said.

### Local Support

In his brief remarks at the meeting, Dr. Falkner emphasized the need for local groups to support the grant request.

If the grant is approved by the federal government, research in the medical examiner's new building at Pratt and Penn streets could begin next year, he said.

Dr. Fisher explained that the proposed project is based in part on new techniques gained from heart transplants, where anti-lymphocytic serum has been used to suppress immunity to germs.

The research program would

be aimed at discovering if there is a "gap" in the ability of an infant to protect itself against viruses and anti-bodies.

Such a "gap," Dr. Fisher explained, appears to occur two, three or four months after birth, when most sudden deaths occur.

As explained by Dr. John T. Miller, who was hired by Dr. Fisher last September especially for the research project, each child is born with an immunity inherited from his mother. It takes a child, he said, one to three months to wear out this inherited immunity and develop his own.

But, he said, some as-yet unidentified agent inherited from the mother could, according to the hypothesis on which the project is based, retard the ability of the child to develop his own ability to be immune.

Harold -  
This might be of interest to you  
re our recent correspondence!  
Loyal

6/13/69

Dear Cyril,

Thanks for the Balt Sun clipping. Helpful. Hope he gets it and many more for such work. One of the better ways of spending money, if the work is good.

I've asked a legislator for a tabulation of the allocations. It is not likely I'll get them, but I might get a suggestion of another source. If I had time to do my own leg work on it, there would be no problem. But it is not important enough to take the time from other things.

Dick Bernabei and I have been doing some work on Frazier's testimony and the casings, evidence and test. We have been able to answer some of the questions he failed to raise or answer. For example, we have been able to duplicate the unmentioned lip dents on the shells with my rifle where we didn't with two others. However, we have deep suspicions about the photos Frazier gave for evidence. I should have had examined them when I could. Dick did. He says they were pieces of two negatives added together. His own impression from some earlier reading is that the usual evidence-test relationship through the comparison microscope here is reversed. My own belief is that Frazier did this kind of fudging to hide some of the markings on the head, not the primer, and he concentrated exclusively on the primers. He also found no markings on the head, where blowback should have imparted them.

We'll be working on this when and as we can. We now have a rather good selection of pictures, some of those the Archives had and some of our own. We have the heads on  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ , taken by a good photographer friend who is also a gun buff. We may be onto something here.

Meanwhile, perhaps you'll enjoy this switch: I got the DJ interested in potential evidence I have for them in a different (but not entirely different) matter, their indictments over the Haiti caper of which you may have heard or read. I interviewed the guy in charge of exactly such a caper almost eight months ago, and his assistant, on tape, and he is the known associate of some of the guys (and all the more important ones) now charged. They are the former Cuba mercenaries. They are interested. I expect them to come up for the tapes. But it will not be an agent; they will not talk to me. It will be a lawyer. One of the problems of poverty: my batteries went dead during the taping. I do not know where it ran out.

Real Frankensteins. Some of the Cuban Power bombings have been with CIA explosives, dynamiters also trained by CIA.

Thanks and best,

Harold Weisberg