a tremendous vaccination program, certainly due in part to the efforts of the physicians, the AMA, and the state and county medical societies. Unfortunately it is beginning to outrun the supplies of the vaccine—the only unhappy circumstance of this program.

This example illustrates better than anything to which I could refer the opportunity that is presented to us as a partnership to do a job. So we need each other.

Now I would like to make one other point, one that was mentioned today two or three times. In developing your public health program I want to urge you first to keep close liaison with the medical society.

Now I am aware you will not always receive what you consider is sympathetic consideration or appropriate evidence of the medical society's concern. Nevertheless, in the long run what you achieve in public health must be built on a partnership of effort and a partnership of understanding, as in so many other instances to which we could refer. Failures to reach an objective in the field of health are often due to a lack of understanding of the contending forces. There are times when the needs and the immediate objectives of the practicing physician may seem to him different from the needs of the public health physician and his ancillary aids. From my experience, I feel strongly that these differences can be resolved, but they require a very close liaison—constant meetings with each other to determine where you are going and what your legitimate objectives may be.

Practicing physicians realize that they alone cannot solve the health problems of the nation. They feel quite strongly that they can solve almost alone many of the problems of individual people, but they know just as you do that there are many endeavors, such as the poliomyelitis vaccine program which require collaborative effort by physicians, nurses, and so many of the ancillary healing arts groups. The AMA realizes that it needs you in order to do the job that its members like to do. So I say in closing that I feel honored in having been asked to come here and I am very happy to bring the greetings of the American Medical Association.

LEONA BAUMGARTNER, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.P.H.A.

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A little over a year ago I was privileged to spend about two and a half months in Asia. Although many things there are so much like things here, one that I found truly different was that you never knew how to get across this concept of a voluntary moment. This concept is almost unknown in Asian countries—people, themselves, raising money for something in the health field, and joining up with tax-supported organizations to do something. But here we have a long and proud tradition of spearheading ideas, of starting things, of spark-plugging demonstrations through private efforts. As Dr. Howard has just said, unless we can have a continuing partnership with tax-supported efforts in our community—whether you call it a local health department, a community health service, a regional group or anything else—I do not believe we can maintain the kind of ideals that we are striving for.

I would like also to pick up the same example that Dr. Howard used (and maybe just poke fun a little bit at the national organizations) by pointing out

Dr. Baumgartner is commissioner of health, New York City, and 1956–1957 president of the National Health Council.
that it was five county medical societies and maybe five or six or 20 little towns that started this polio vaccination program in combination with the local health department. As a matter of fact, it was on December 3 that our county medical societies did this. We began talking about it in October and after that the nationals got around to it. So I am all for this local kind of movement, you see.

I do not think there is anyone in this room who will not pay respect tonight to the kind of leadership that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis played in the development of a polio vaccine. But let us remember that in getting this job done after the research was done, after the demonstration, it was only this kind of partnership that made it work. And in the health department I referred to some two and a half million shots were given through the tax-supported agency, and about one and a half million were given in doctors' offices—and for a very good reason, because the organized program was started partially through the local health department as a community effort.

Let us take another example: The National Tuberculosis Association and the local tuberculosis associations in our area started the first mass x-ray surveys. Today the health department is taking 3,000 a day, while in industries (many of the programs started jointly between a voluntary agency and government) are taking about 1,800 a day, and hospitals about 400 a day. This is indeed a partnership job.

Or take a newcomer, so to speak, in the voluntary health agency field, the cerebral palsy group. We find in this particular town six wonderful schools associated with the public school system that have treatment facilities, rehabilitation facilities, and so on. But how did that get started? In a cooperative venture between the locally tax-supported health department and the voluntary agency.

And obviously in this particular town (and let it be nameless, although I know it rather well) many of these things would not have happened without the kind of partnership that we are talking about tonight. The real point I would like to make is, that we are not nearly courageous enough in exploiting this policy, this kind of partnership. It is a wonderful idea and I wonder what makes us so timid about really exploiting it as much as we might. Why are we so afraid to make it work? Why do we always let people put up little kinds of silly questions and say “Oh, maybe we better watch out about so and so or watch out about this and that.”

It seems to me also, if I hear correctly the tune of the times, that the time for us to enter into this kind of partnership is much closer than we think. For the people, the public, are asking—they are not only asking, they are almost telling us—to hurry up, because they too are going to get into this partnership of making healthier citizens of us all. They are interested in the things that we are interested in. They think they have a stake in them and we know they do.

So I would say, in our good American tradition, with a wonderful pioneering principle of cooperation between voluntary efforts and tax-supported efforts: Let us be more courageous in the years ahead of us.