

# **Pushing the Medical Envelope: Mandatory Vaccination and the power of the Pharmaceutical Corporations**

Martin J Walker MA

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Sir Graham Wilson and The Hazards of Immunisation

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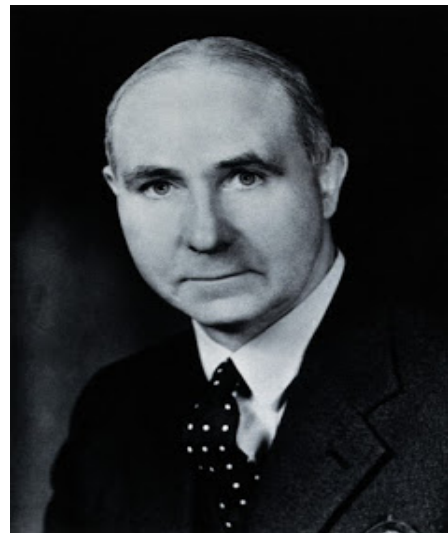
Too Late For Another Kefauver?

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## Part One: Sir Graham Wilson and The Hazards of Immunisation

Everything faded into mist.  
The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten.  
The lie became de truth.  
*George Orwell, 1984*



Sir Graham S. Wilson: The  
good scientist.

Sir Graham S. Wilson, 1895-1987, Director of the UK Public Health Laboratory Service, for over 20 years until 1963, was a real scientist, whose writing is underscored with the kind of uncertainty that genuine scientists always have.

In his 1967 book, *The Hazards of Immunization*, (1) in 24 chapters, he outlined the problems which can occur with vaccination. So varied and so determinedly stated were his concerns that towards the end of the book he tells the reader that while in the US he was castigated for being anti vaccination. He denies this, but it is clearly evident that he thought attention to detail and the examining all aspects of vaccine adverse reaction was vital.

Science, scientists and vaccine corporations, have, however, changed radically over the last 50 years and Wilson's present day equivalents are unrelenting dogmatists for whom money, licences and

patents come before serious intellectually driven research. These modern mercenaries, pundits, vaccine promoters and shills have been arguing for some time for hundreds of viral strains to be included in one vaccine.

Oddly arguments are phrased not in scientific terms, but the subject is talked over with bizarre expressions such as 'we can combine as many viral strains as we want', and with simple arguments about convenience and lower costs, such as 'why go to the doctors on different occasions when you can get a hundred shots in one vaccination' – save money and time. The marketing approach to vaccines is no different to that of washing powders.

With combination vaccines, the pharmaceutical companies are able to introduce viral strains into vaccines for which there has been no need in the past. In the MMR vaccination for example, the mumps strain had not previously been recommended by the British National Health Service (NHS) for mass vaccination.

Wilson was concerned about combined vaccines, because he saw the interaction between them, and other aspects of their manufacture, increasing the chance of unforeseen interaction with the individual receiver. He says:

'Combined vaccines, provided that they are given in the same total dosage, are not necessarily more toxic than single vaccines. The reactions they elicit is determined by the most toxic component of the vaccine; but when containing alum some of them are liable, as with combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine, to lower the resistance of the body and lead to activation of a latent infection – the so-called provocation effect'.

Of course one has to bear in mind that at the time Wilson was writing combined vaccines were just coming into being.

In the UK, *Getting Ahead of the Curve: A strategy for combating infectious diseases (including other aspects of health protection)*, A report by the Chief Medical Officer Sir Kenneth Calman published in 1992 advocated a government policy centred on combined vaccines. It read in part:

'Over the next decade it is highly probable that research and

development will produce new generations of vaccines. Indeed, as the benefits of new genetic technologies are increasingly successfully applied, the pace of emergence of new vaccines may well accelerate. Not only will there be new vaccines, but many will be combined. Harnessing this change *will require a carefully managed relationship with the research community and the vaccine industry.*

In the short term the major developments could be: More vaccines combined into new 'multivaccines' to reduce the number of injections or clinic visits.'

In the US, one major vaccine researcher and patent holder, Paul Offit has frequently stresses the possibility of using combined strain vaccines containing up to 10,000 viral Strains. Offit claims 10,000 viral Strains would have no adverse effect whatsoever. This view is also propagated by the Oxford Vaccine Group, one of the leading UK vaccine research organisations.

Inevitably because 'scientists' such as Offit try to speak in a kind of popular shorthand, no mention is made, as they are constantly in Wilsons writing, in these grand claims of the differences in biological disposition between children or the added adjunct chemical and organic material such as egg, aluminium, mercury, chicken etc. which are introduced into the mix of the viral strains.

Inevitably Offits off-the-cuff populist suggestions cannot be supported by any scientific proof by the CDC, the WHO or other apparently trustworthy organizations. In it's Internet summary of vaccine safety, *Vaccines and the Immune System*, the Children's hospital of Philadelphia, makes the most bizarrely unscientific claim which are not only blatantly wrong but completely irrelevant.

Harping on the Offit theme, they say, 'each infant would have the capacity to respond to about 10,000 vaccines at any one time'. They then add 'Using this estimate, one would predict that if 11 vaccines were given to infants at one time, then about 0.1 percent of the immune system would be "used up."'

So, according to these vaccine propagandists, 'the immune system' is like a bottle and 11 vaccine strains would 'use up' only 0.1 of its volume. This is complete and utter nonsense and has nothing to do

with science in any form and even falls short of guesswork or 'wild speculation'. No one has ever received high levels of multiple vaccines. In fact it might be said that those who are given multiple vaccines, today are guinea pigs, for specific combines vaccines, the pharmaceutical companies are experimenting on these subjects.

In the concluding paragraphs of *The Hazards of Immunization*, Wilson goes to some lengths to explain the considerable complexity of the biology of vaccination. He has particular things to say about 'mass immunization', and one has to remind oneself that he was writing in the 1960s.

About mass vaccination he says:

'In such a (mass) operation, time does not permit an inquiry into the suitability of each individual subject for vaccination. An allergic history, such as that of sensitivity to egg protein, horse dander, horse serum, or penicillin; a history of eczema either in the subject to be vaccinated or a member of the family; a history of asthma from whatever cause; any stage of pregnancy; the presence of certain blood dyscrasias; current treatment with certain corticosteroids, irradiation or alkylating agents; recent administration of other vaccines and sera; as well as the age, general health, and state of nutrition – should all be taken into consideration before a person is inoculated ... but this is not possible under the conditions of mass immunization'.

That Wilson was a real scientist and not one of these faux money making mercenary populists, is shown by his conscientious attention to detail. When you read Wilson you don't mind him being a doctor or part of the medical establishment because you realize as you read his only concern is the citizen, the patient and the child. Wilson has integrity. Reading Wilson you also can't help but lament the death of intellectual and curiosity driven science and its replacement by the propagandists of contemporary drug dealing.

Part Two:  
Mandatory Vaccines, the rise  
of science as ideology: A Brave New World  
in the offing



The brave Frances Kelsey receiving a second pen from Kennedy after  
The signing of the Kefauver-Harris amendments.

Data is not information; information  
is not knowledge; knowledge  
is not wisdom.

Frank Zappa

The California Senate Appropriations Committee, vote on Bill SB 277, began what many Senators believe will end the right to personal and religious exemption and introducing 'almost' mandatory vaccination in California. Rather than develop the more complex science of understanding which children might be variously and adversely affected by vaccine, as Wilson and others have recommended, the vote and other political signs, moved the vaccine industry and their skills deeper into the political matrix of US society.

This early vote by has paved the way for a larger vote in the California senate which will make final the mandatory law regarding

vaccination of children before kindergarten – failure to comply will lead to children being denied access to state schools in California (2). Such a law would make California one of three states along with Mississippi and West Virginia that does not allow personal or religious exemptions to vaccine laws.

In some ways the issue of mandatory vaccinations is intellectually complex. Should the individuals beliefs take precedent over the alleged public health risk to the majority? In a world where the public have no say in the manufacture or regulation of vaccines, why should they have these vaccines forced upon them? In a world where scientists and vaccine producers lie without discretion about adverse reactions caused to individual children, why do parents have no power to seek reparation and compensation for the damage caused by these vaccines? Why in an apparent democracy should parents who strongly object to this medical intervention, be forced at the cost of all kinds of social withdrawal, to see their children vaccinated?

In other ways, the argument is simplicity itself. It is generally accepted in varying degrees, by both the political 'left' and 'right' that those who pay taxes and abide by the law are entitled to a life free from persecution, assault, regulatory harassment and medical experimentation.

There are perhaps two or three factors which have obscured the basic truths of both these premises. In the first issue, of intellectual complexity, laws framed after the Nuremberg trials, in light of the Nazi and Japanese atrocities, and a number that have followed, have specifically forbidden experimental medical procedures on human beings.

In relation to the second issue, the rise of science as an ideology has introduced a whole new determination of our analysis of 'democracy'. In developed societies where science corporations hold the floor, it is increasingly not the case that the human argument is heard but the apparent rationality of science which holds sway. As well as the rise of science the rise of corporations has also changed the game. The most important issues to be decided upon today are not those which were decided upon fifty years ago, whether it's foreign policy, medicine or public health, intellectual debate now takes second place to scientific and corporate power and profitability

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The pharmaceutical corporations, the vaccine industry, never does anything that has not been planned for some time. Plans are always long term although appear to be the sudden consequence of a real or bogus event, whether it be the death of a chicken farmer in some far off land or a 'dangerous' epidemic of measles in Disney World. The corporate industry and its political partners need threads to hang by and seas of money on which to float their plans.

This is not, however, how the industry portrays its position, for years now they have railed against religion and faith of all kinds as a guide for the citizen and particularly the doctor. When, for instance, it became increasingly evident that doctors with faith were less likely to pronounce death or turn off support systems than were the more pragmatic industry linked doctors who needed quickly to harvest organs. Leading skeptics and entrenched scientists campaigned on this, suggesting that doctors with faith were bad doctors.

The established Skeptics, who pimp for science and the pharmaceutical industry, grew out of a US Marxist atheistic group (3) and have generally campaigned against faith, belief and religion saying that such things had no foundation in scientific fact and even obscured such facts.

In order to win the votes on BS 277, corporatist vaccine propaganda relied upon two clear strategies, the first was a usual one, the creation of fear. This fear was engendered by the 'terrible measles outbreak' that took place in California during last December to February. Like all promotional crises the facts of the outbreak are obscure and the moral interpretation giddily stupid to most lay people. In a recent interview with Natural News, Dr. Suzanne Humphries a qualified and experienced medical doctor describes reporting of the outbreak in this way:

'If you just listen to the news, you would think that the world is being taken by storm by this terrible deadly measles virus. Between December 2014 and February 11<sup>th</sup> 2015, there were a total of 125 measles cases.  
'It is said that the origin of these outbreaks was at the Disney California theme park, although they have no idea who the primary case was or where that person came from.



‘Anything you hear on the news is just surmising and assumption; they have no idea. What we know about the 110 patients that are California residents, is that 47 of them, which is nearly half, had an unknown or undocumented vaccination status.

‘This is very interesting because these cases were all diagnosed and confirmed, yet, for some reason, they were unable to determine if these people were vaccinated or not. It’s possible that they could have all been vaccinated with one, two, or three vaccines.

‘We know there were 13 vaccinated people, 5 of whom had 1 dose of the vaccine, 7 had 2 doses, 1 had 3 doses, and 1 had immunoglobulin seropositivity documented, which indicated a prior vaccination.

‘Then we have the unvaccinated, of which there were 49. Of these, one quarter of them couldn’t have been vaccinated anyway because they were too young, so they’re counted as unvaccinated, even though these are not people that exempted out. That leaves us with 37 more vaccine-eligible people, and all we know is that 28 of them - 18 of the 28 that are left over were children less than 18 years old, and 10 were adults.

‘Now, we’re left with 9 that we can’t account for, but Dr. Schuchat of the CDC keeps saying that there were many cases that weren’t vaccinated because they were sick at the time when the vaccine was due.

‘So, all in all, we have 18 patients, out of 110 patients, who we can say were of vaccinating age, but were opting out of vaccines, 10 of which were adults. And this is what we’re making a big fuss about.’ (4)

As with much of US foreign policy, it becomes evident after some thought that, if the event did really take place, it’s presentation to the media was a Bubonic Plague manufactured from a molehill.

The second strategy was like the first, a long tested strategy, which has been gradually developed and refined. While science and scientific skills are portrayed as rational, selfless and socially minded,

the opposition has to be portrayed as irrational, slightly loony, selfish and anti-social. The 'anti vaxers' have to be named and shamed.

Of course, such an opposition doesn't actually exist. Many people who appear to campaign against vaccination are not actually campaigning against vaccination per se. They have very rational and intelligent views based upon their knowledge of the damage caused by vaccination to their own children, relatives or close friends. What appals many of those campaigning, usually specific vaccination, is the dilatory, unscientific, criminal, incompetent and reprehensibly inhuman approach of the medical establishment and the drugs cartels to the ongoing damage they are causing the world's children.

In order to improve the efficiency of their tireless campaign to make money, vaccine shills have to break down this opposition into identifiable 'anti social elements'. Some of these, such as those who believe in alternative medicine and those who are diametrically opposed to allopathic medicine, are common and easy targets, their beliefs easily portrayed as irrational and unscientific.

Out there on the fringe of the argument there are religious and other groups that the cartels can't touch. The Amish, for example, will not be cited in the propaganda of the vaccine lobby. The great swath of Christians, however, are seen as easy targets. A steadfast belief in God is turned into irrationality that can be attacked and undermined.

In February of 2015, right on the nose of the apparent measles epidemic, Paul Offit, arch vaccine shill, tried to second guess Jesus Christ with an Op-Ed piece in the New York Times with the most incredibly patronising titled, 'What would Jesus do about measles?'(5)

In March of this year, following on a matter of days after the measles outbreak and just three months before the first vote in the Sacramento vote on mandatory vaccination, Offit apparently authored a book about religion, *Bad Faith: When Religious Belief Undermines Modern Medicine*. Offit is the Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Vaccine Education Centre at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and patent holder for a major vaccine, which has earned millions. Offit is the author of the most berserk and irrational statement probably made by any doctor in the world, that a new born could tolerate a mix of 10,000 viral strains in one shot. Offit is both a 'scientist' and the primary shill for corporate vaccine

medicine in the US.

Mark Oppenheimer wrote of *Bad Faith*: (6)

‘Unfortunately, Dr. Offit’s book is more a fervent attack job than an earnest attempt to understand people with different ... views. His book is thinly sourced and poorly researched, seeming at times as if he began with a conclusion and then went in search of evidence. ‘And Dr. Offit’s paradigm ultimately doesn’t explain very much. ... Irrationalism, including the fear of science, courses through America’s veins, and it’s only sometimes religiously inspired. *Bad Faith* could have furthered his (Offit’s) life’s work. Instead, this book feels like a rush job.’

Of course, what part Offit played in the actual writing of the book might be questioned by anyone who has experience or knowledge of the way in which the CIA churned out books and magazines between 1947 and the 1980s. (7) Given the kind of book this was and the timing of its release, it would seem to me more probable that the book was cobbled together in the offices of a crisis management PR company.

The book was Offit’s second in the last five years, the first in 2010 being *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All*, a title that is alarmingly similar to the apocalyptic crisis management guru, bogus charity organiser, chemical and pharma shill Lord Dick Tavern, originator of Sense About Science, who said, ‘A little pesticide does you good but ‘organic’ farming harms the world.’ (8)

Offit’s views are rarely given in the round, not surprisingly because some of them, intent upon dragging us all into a scientific ‘rational’ future are, very extreme. It’s not just that he doesn’t believe in the rights of parents in relation to their children, he clearly doesn’t believe in families, not just Christian families but any family. Both religion and families, and communities of any kind, are a threat to the future of scientific/technological hegemony.

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To understand the rise of the idea of mandatory vaccines, we have to have an understanding of both the past and the possible future. In the 1920s, thinkers on the right in England were obsessed with the effects of the Russian revolution. They fought, tooth and nail, for what they

saw as their 'freedoms'. They thought state education was a communist plot, that hospitals and a welfare state would deprive them of freedom of choice in health care, while more liberal elements were as concerned with the rise of a state organised police force, which they believed could become a kind of secret army.

The modern period, after the 1920s, was the time that the 'left' and 'right' began philosophically digging their heels in; the left arguing for a bigger and 'more caring' state and the right arguing for the least state possible. In the event both sides were digging their own graves, because coming up on the outside, seen only by a few notable science fiction and dystopian thinkers, (9) was science and its political uber rationality.

The nature of power and the organization of advanced society has now changed so much that the old arguments of ideology have little bearing on the situation. There is only a faint shadow of historical politics embedded in the debate about mandatory vaccination, there is a strain of Republicanism which believes in individualism and libertarianism, but the Republican cause has been distorted by power, wealth and ownership. There is still a strain of democracy that believes in developing the common good and within this caring for the individual, but the democratic and collective cause has also been distorted by power, wealth and ownership.

The new structure of power in advanced society grows from science. We are heading towards a society in which there is no debate and no democracy. If science says that all cars in the future should run on wifi, despite the growing cancer count caused by it, there will be no discussion, because science is right per se. If science in the future says that because of overpopulation human life will be terminated at 30, then this will be the case. If science in the future says that all children will be vaccinated and parents who do not agree will be punished with the withdrawal of social benefits and sent to re-education camps, then so be it. Science is never wrong.

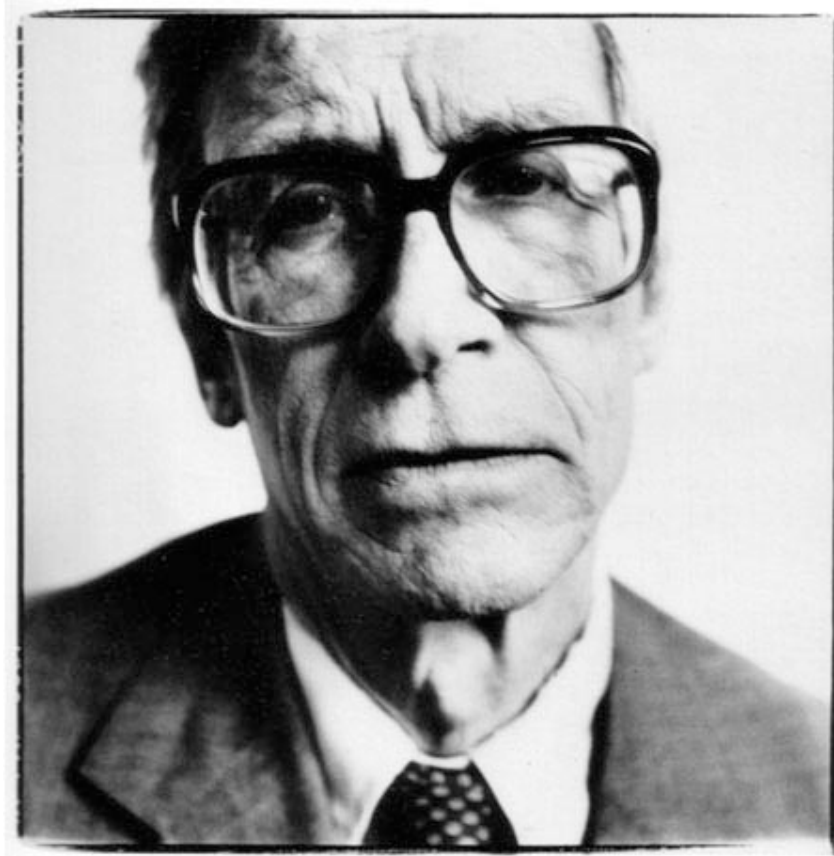
However, because science is a human activity it can always be wrong and those who adhere to it as an ideology rather than a way of finding the truth, will always lie about it, when it is wrong. In fact, 'scientists', a label which embraces a whole collection of people, can already be seen to be lying. It is something all ideologies do in the beginnings of their power. Communists lie, capitalists lie, religions lie...

If not about the facts then about the moral consequences of their systems.

Perhaps now is a time to revolt against the new power, against its lack of humanity, against its 'collective rationality', against the determination of the shills that science becomes the leading structural philosophy in society, and most determinedly against the lies that it is using as a stepladder to power.

## Part Three

### Too Late For Another Kefauver?



Later in life, the anti-monopoly balsy Estes Kefauver.\*

The corporations don't have to lobby  
government anymore; they are the government.

*Jim Hightower*

If we, as individuals, want to keep control of our democracy – rather than have a  
government paid for by corporate interest cheques – then we have to fight back  
now and make sure our system reflects the belief that people, not corporations,  
control our democracy.

*Michael Bennet*

The writing about vaccines and autism, both in the US and the UK  
tends to concentrate on the exacting circumstances of vaccine damage

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\* This fabulous photo is not credited. This ethical abuse is not my fault.

and such things as clinical trials. This is somehow inevitable, principally because both those who suffer and their parents have now such a full and stressful life, that they have little time for larger campaigns.

Politically, however, the broader issues of corporatism and the power of the pharmaceutical corporations are being obscured. And needless to say this, diminishment works in favour of the drug cartels.

During all my work on Dr Wakefield's case and with the parents of vaccine damaged children in the UK, the pharmaceutical companies were the least mentioned behemoths. In fact, the cartels have successfully hidden behind this stilted discourse about whether or not mercury, or measles strain virus, is responsible for vaccine damage and regressive autism. As if only we could get the formula right everything would be OK! Eyes are forced continuously away from the real focus of the conflict, heads turned, away from the power of the global drug cartels and their decisions to treat every child in the world as if they were mirror images of each other.

The contemporary societies in the developed world are guided by two things, firstly the development of science and technology and secondly the ease of product introduction and continuous presence in the consumer market. Let's take fruit and vegetables, while bearing in mind mobile phones. From the 1950s onwards new chemical pesticides began to be used by agricultural growers. The consequence of the first pesticide use was a massive increase in cancers amongst farmers, particularly in the New World and Oceania. Commensurate with this development came that of the supermarket.

The consequences of the supermarket were a fall in the knowledge of shoppers about nutrition, the advent of plastic bags in the millions - which were to become an environmental outrage, and the disappearance of aspects of the community, little conversation during shopping, the demise of the corner shop and a seeming lack of need for people to grow their own food, followed later by attempts to stop people growing their own food (1). As well a growing use of energy in the form of air miles and a growing exploitation of workers in foreign lands.

When food production turned from businesses to corporations,

small groups of people got very rich and more deeply able to control both the production of food and its distribution. Along with this growth of financial elites and large corporations, came a growing lack of control for consumers. Parts of the budgets of agricultural corporations were used to propagandise against organic food and domestically grown food.

The advent of mass pesticide use and the supermarket changed the way that we live. However, these changes were not agreed upon by any local or national democracy, any town hall meeting or Swiss style plebiscite, the changes were brought about by the use of developing technology and the growth of a 'free' capitalist economy. The organisation of life began to be taken out of the hands of the 'lay' population.

When voices are raised against this way of living and moving forward, those who raise objections are accused of wanting to return to a medieval age, or wanting to halt progress. Increasingly such voices are not observed, to hear them would involve standing still for a moment, giving weight to our individual nature, assessing the future and talking about alternatives. For those running down the technological hill in a dash for profit this is no good and it is at this point that the end of democracy begins.

The battle over developing science and technology such as GMOs, the disappearance of venues for criticism, the dissolution of participation and democracy, moves incredibly quickly and soon advancing technology and the rush for profit extends to more and more parts of our lives, regardless of the consequences. (2)

Nowhere is the growth of corporatism, the co-operation of large companies with small governments, more evident than in the growth of the pharmaceutical companies. As a result of the drive for profit, technological development and the resultant decline in democracy, every citizen now faces the most serious battles over their own lives, bodies and spirituality and that of their children and dependent loved ones. Playing as they do on the ill health fears of every individual, they have a ready market of apparently sick or frightened citizens.

Pharmaceutical corporations accompanied by the ideology of science are moving into every aspect of our lives and infiltrating many of the institutions of organised society. As a result of the



pressure to maintain sales, there is now, in the words of the World Health Organization's (WHO) words, 'an inherent conflict of interest between the legitimate business goals of (pharmaceutical) manufacturers and the social, medical and economic needs of the population'.

Following the reduced market on patented specific illness drugs, vaccines have only recently moved to the forefront of profitability. From a position in 1953 when **the** CDC recommended 16 doses of 4 vaccines between two months and age six, to a situation today where 49 doses of 14 vaccines are advised before the age of 6 and 69 doses of 16 vaccines by the age of 18. Increasingly the pressure is on for these vaccinations to be further combined and mandatory. (3)

The global pharmaceuticals market today is worth US\$300 billion a year, a projected US\$400 billion within three years. The 10 largest drugs companies control over one-third of the market. These companies currently spend one-third of *all sales revenue* on **marketing** their products - roughly twice what they spend on research and development. Individual companies and their annual earnings are as follows: Pfizer, USA: profit of \$22bn in 2013. Novartis, Switzerland: profit of \$9.2bn in 2013. Sanofi, France: profit of \$4.9bn in 2013. Roche Holding, Switzerland 2014, profits of \$12bn. Merck & Co., USA, the company's profit in 2013 \$4.4bn. GlaxoSmithKline, UK profit of \$8.5bn in 2013. (4)

The full vote of the Senate on mandatory vaccines in the Sacramento mandatory vaccine Bill 277 is still to come. But the preliminary vote of the health committee brought to public light information about pharmaceutical interests in the Senate. Through 2013-2014, prior to the vote, pharmaceutical companies and their trade association donated more than \$2 million to individual lawmakers, members of the Assembly generally and seven members specifically of the Senate health committees. (5) In addition, the pharmaceutical industry donated more than \$500,000 to outside campaign spending groups that helped elect some current members last year.

Sen. Richard Pan, a pediatric doctor, was the top recipient of industry campaign cash. Pan, a Democrat who sponsored the Bill, received \$95,150, while the other six members, Hernandez (D), Holly Mitchell (D), Brian Maienschein (R), Bonilla (D), Bonta (D), Gomez (D) of Health Committees received amounts between - \$34,000 and

\$68,000 (5)

The top five out of 11 corporations and trade groups that donated the most money to the Senate during years 2013 and 2014 were Johnson & Johnson Inc. (\$670,226), GlaxoSmithKline (\$593,729), Eli Lilly & Company (\$473,963), Gilead Sciences Inc. (\$274,332), and Biocom PAC (\$253,224). (5)

This issue of mandatory vaccination strikes at the very heart of the democratic principle. If it was organised and structured by debate, including nominated representatives, scientists and the laity, it might be possible to justify it. When all the evidence for it is created and manipulated by profit needed corporations, it can only be a disastrous oppression.

\* \* \*

The idea that Corporations linked to 'government' will overcome democracy has a pedigree of three centuries. The US founding fathers of an independent North America, free of the British, could see the dangers. (6)

'I hope that we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.' Thomas Jefferson.

'The power of all corporations ought to be limited, [...] the growing wealth acquired by them never fails to be a source of abuses.' James Madison

Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the steel, coal, oil and cattle Barons were developing a power which easily influenced government. By the 1920s modern capitalism began to reform, trying to halt the excesses of the big corporations but by the 1950s the cat was trying hard to get out of the bag again and corporations were becoming bigger and bigger. However, serious post-industrial writing and investigations about the rise of corporations and the subsequent death of democracy really came to the fore after the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Following the second world war, the already conglomerate

industry, headed by Rockefeller interests, began joining with independent companies to form massive corporations, monopolies in everything but name.

Monopolies are the bane of capitalism and those who are ruled by it. Monopoly converts the homey domestic structures of small company competitive capitalism which accompanies local and domestic democracy into a stifling economic and political totalitarianism which smothers competition and denies choice to the consumer. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, there was much discussion about cutting back monopoly.

In the 1950s, a Democratic senator, Estes Kefauver rose to prominence in the US. His 'issue' was monopolies – he wanted to stop them and return to small unit competitive capitalism envisaged by the founding fathers. Kefauver set up and organised a series of hearings, at the centre of which were the pharmaceutical companies. The results of those hearings were turned into law. Kefauver had drive and ambition, a man of indomitable energy who never gave an inch and was hated by his fellow Democrats as well as those in the corporations.

In the 1950s Estes Kefauver wrote:

With these mergers, competition has been lessening. The “big” in all facets of American business are becoming constantly more powerful. We have, today, the “big” in the automobile business, the “big” in the steel business, the “big” in the oil business, the “big” in the aluminum business, the “big” in the meat industry, as well as in many other industries too numerous to mention.

In December 1959 the drug industry phase of the Kefauver subcommittee hearings began and lasted for ten months. (7)

By the start of the hearing, the subcommittee staff had carried out major investigations, compiling extensive data on pharmaceutical prices and profits. They had interviewed a large number of people who came into contact with the industry.

Kefauver's co-worker Irene Till had already contributed chapters on the milk and oil industries to Walton Hamilton 1938 book, *Price and Price Policies*. When Kefauver died, it was Till who completed *In a Few Hands: Monopoly Power in America*. (8) Till's two areas of focus in her

briefing to Kefauver were the patent law, which protected companies from competition, and what she called the 'close identity of prices' set by manufacturers, asserting that big companies practiced 'price leadership' and that there was a lamentable absence of foreign and domestic competition.

Around 150 witnesses and their assistants appeared before the subcommittee. Testimony was limited to four groups of drugs: cortical steroids, tranquilizers, oral antidiabetics, and antibiotics. The Kefauver Hearings focused on classic economic models and to some degree missed the point of future corporate growth. After the Second World War, things were to change radically, as the real future of corporatism – the linkage of government and corporations – was to become clear.

Kefauver and Till's work resulted in 1962 in the Kefauver-Harris amendments to the 1938 Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, which were to be acted upon by the FDA in its early years. This Act, together with a Pure Food and Drug Act, was brought into being following Upton Sinclair's amazing investigation and written account of the depredations of the Chicago meat packers, which resulted in his book *The Jungle*. (9) The most important aspect of the Kefauver-Harris amendments is that it ensured that all drugs licensed went through thorough drugs trials.

Thalidomide also began a new route for anti trust campaigning with campaigners beginning to focus on the consumer safety aspects of corporations and some fifty years later a great variety of consumers and *afectados* were campaigning on the health repercussions of monopoly power.

It was one woman rather than a campaign that beat Richardson Merrell into submission in the case of thalidomide, in the US marketed under the trade name of Kevadon. In 1960, Frances Kelsey was hired by the FDA in [Washington, D.C.](#) She was then one of only seven full-time and four young part-time physicians reviewing drugs for the FDA. (10) Kelsey (today aged 100) was determined that the drug should not be licensed in the US, principally because it had not been trialled sufficiently and there were many gaps in its safety data. The company wanted to market Kevadon as a tranquilizer and painkiller with specific indications to prescribe to pregnant women for morning sickness.

Even though it had already been approved in Canada and over 20 European and African countries, [Kelsey](#) withheld approval for thalidomide. Despite pressure from the manufacturer, she persisted in demanding additional information. Consequently thalidomide was never licensed in the US. [Morton Mintz](#), author of a *Washington Post* article, said ‘Kelsey’ prevented ... the birth of hundreds or indeed thousands of armless and legless children.

The FDA still publicises this regulatory breakthrough of sixty years ago, ignoring modern conditions and hoping people believe that the Kefauver-Harris Amendments were the last word in regulation. The amendments established a framework that required drug manufacturers to prove scientifically that a medication was not only safe but effective. Of course, there were ways of circumventing the amendments and who could have foreseen the massive expansion of FDA itself and its infiltration by agents of the pharmaceutical corporations?

\* \* \*

Four books have always stood out in my mind from the beginning of my writing about pharmaceutical companies. The first one is J. Braithwaite’s (1984) *Corporate Crime in the pharmaceutical Industry*, (11) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. Braithwaite’s book exposes the ‘everyday and taken for granted’ corruption in the industry. It illustrates in detail a built-in culture of corruption.

The second book is, *In a Few Hands: Monopoly Power in America* by Ester Kefauver and Irene Till (12 ). I started researching drugs and drug companies in 1987. At that time, the literary landscape of corruption in the pharmaceutical industry appeared relatively barren until I found this book about the analysis of pharmland as a massive monopoly phenomena.

The third book is the best book, to my mind, about the Thalidomide crimes: *Thalidomide and the Power of the Drug Companies*. (13) Written by Henning Sjostrom, one of the lawyers who fought the Swedish thalidomide cases, and Robert Nilsson, who became a doctor and then acted as an adviser and consultant in the thalidomide trials. The greatest thing about this book is that it dispels all the notions proffered by the pharmaceutical industry, as to why as people intimately concerned with health they somehow deserve special privileges.

Thalidomide is today often quoted as a drug crisis that was completely resolved with an agreement to give to those affected life long cash settlements. The idea that this happened as a consequence of the humanitarian leanings of those at the producing German company, Chemie Grunenthal, is dispensed with by the book.

In some countries the thalidomide cases were resolved quickly while in others, and particularly in Germany, the originating producers of the drug fought with a kind of fascist authority, playing every trick in the book. Chemie Grunenthal employed teams of private detectives to root into the lives of both doctors who offered adverse opinions about the drug, and even those who suffered the most serious adverse reactions. Chemie Grunenthal closed down all communications through medical media channels and isolated and spread rumours about doctors who defended their patients.

Despite the drug being withdrawn in Germany, in other countries, even in other parts of Germany, the drug was prescribed under other names. In Italy thalidomide was prescribed under 10 different trade names. From the thalidomide cases grew many of the contemporary practices used by lawyers and PR firms.

The fourth book, *Divided Legacy Vol. III*, is by Harris L. Coulter (1932 – 2009), (14) one of the outstanding intellectuals and writers on homeopathy and medical matters generally. Coulter was a brilliant academic who also wrote frequently about the dangers of vaccination. In the early 1980s Coulter met up with Barbara Loe Fisher and later they worked together on *DPT: A Shot in the Dark*. (15) (16)

Volume III of *Divided Legacy* is a painstaking account of the rise of monopoly pharmaceutical medicine in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It charts the rise of the professional association of doctors, the AMA, in its beginnings, led by the messianic Morris Fishbein. The book tells in glorious detail how the AMA organised against homeopathic practitioners and how they gradually sculpted a monopoly practise for their Association.

\* \* \*

I'm afraid that this section is biased towards the UK medical scene,

which I know most about, but I'm sure that US readers can easily figure out the corresponding parts of the vignettes below. These strategies fall into two groups; one, propagandist and marketing, the second to do with taking out competition.

When Rockefeller first began building a medical industry in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, via which he could distribute and market the drugs that he had a monopoly interest in, he began by influencing the education of doctors. Under Abraham Flexner, Rockefeller's doughty medical academic adviser and educational expert, the centres of medical education in the US were cut from 650 to 50. (17) Colleges, schools and communities which helped black people and women students were diminished and white male doctors were primarily trained in higher class Medical Colleges and Universities, primarily funded by Rockefeller in the US and UK.

One of the consequences of these cuts was that black and women patients in need of medical care were increasingly ignored. In Britain and America, pharmaceutical doctors waged war against homeopathy and other forms of non-allopathic medicine. Perhaps the most spectacular case is that of Greg Canton, manufacturer of herbal cancer treatments, (18) who after serving a three-year prison sentence in 2003, on charges trumped up by the FDA, went with his wife to live in Ecuador. Acting illegally the FDA sent staff to Ecuador where they kidnapped Canton and brought him back to the US. (19) (20)

They created classic anti competition defences strategies of their professional position by forcing doctors who were also homeopaths, for example, out of the profession. As they increasingly came to be tied to pharmaceutical companies, doctors became no more than ciphers for the drug corporations. All sense of independent and natural, and even nutritional health care was drummed out of them. Today, they do what their pharmaceutical training has equipped them to do: dispense drugs. (21) (22)

The contemporary period is not the only period that had penalised, imprisoned and sometimes put to death herbalists. The Inquisition, which continued through the 16<sup>th</sup> century and into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, regularly 'tried' healers who they defined as witches.

**Cherry picked research:** There is next to no scientific research into any health modality outside pharmaceutical medicine in either Britain

or North America. What research and which journals there are do not get quoted in the mainstream citations. This is despite the fact that some research is funded by citizens, local and central government. There is, of course, reams of research into homeopathy and acupuncture in other countries, for example, but this is never referred to. Jacques Benveniste, a leading French scientist who, after extensive research, wrote a research paper on the memory of water, which went some way to proving the principle of homeopathy, was attacked by CSICOP and John Maddox, the editor of Nature, sacked from his post at INTERM and deprived of any research grants. (23)

**Prescribing:** There have been numerous cases over the last decades in which companies have been caught plying doctors with gifts, money and even prostitutes. Doctors have been used to enrol patients in trials, giving them unlicensed medicines. The biggest case of this kind recently took place in China, where employees of GlaxoSmithKline were found to have bribed hospitals, doctors and others to prescribe Glaxo drugs. Five company managers were given suspended prison sentences and Glaxo was fined \$500M. Separately, Glaxo has been investigating claims that its employees bribed doctors in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

**Price Fixing :** In some ways the citizens of North America can be their own worst enemies. With their constant own fear of criticising capitalism and all that comes with it, they sometimes dig their own graves. The case of drugs and their public prices stands out.

While US citizens pay around four times more for prescription drugs than any other society in the world, they listen to the explanations of the drug cartels like children being read a story. It's like this, the corporations say, 'We have to make massive profits in order to Plough it back into research, making pharmaceuticals is very expensive'. They fail to tell us that America's major drug companies are spending more than twice as much on marketing, advertising and administration than they do on research and development. (24)

In 2014 in the US, 11 of the 12 new-to-market drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) were priced above \$100,000 per-patient per-year. Nexium, a drug commonly prescribed to treat acid reflux, in Spain costs on average \$18. In France and the United Kingdom, Nexium costs, on average, \$30 and \$32 respectively, but in the United States, a prescription for Nexium costs, on average, a \$187. Lipitor is a commonly prescribed medication in the United



States, used to treat high cholesterol. In New Zealand, a prescription for Lipitor costs, on average, just six dollars. In South Africa and Spain, it costs \$11 and \$13 respectively. In the United States, a prescription of Lipitor costs, on average, \$100. (25)

**Cancer and other Breakthroughs:** Breakthroughs in pharmaceutical medicines are frequently signalled in the corporate media, which accepts advertising revenue from the pharmaceutical companies, especially in the field of cancer. These stories pave the way for either bigger companies to buy formulae or for companies to gain funding to continue unresolved research. (26)

**Cancer and other Charities:** Companies infiltrate or even found charities to advise victims of particular illnesses. They are funded in part from citizens donations through charities, yet these donors have no say in any research, all of which is used to profit the company with the development of pharmaceuticals. Of that money donated to cancer charities, over half of it goes to administration while the rest rarely if ever goes to research into the environmental causes of cancer. (27)

**Unethical trials and publications:** There is evident corruption in the research, development, production and marketing of many drugs. Companies have been accused not only of fraudulent trials, but also of publishing trials in completely bogus medical journals. Scientific publishing giant Elsevier put out a total of six publications between 2000 and 2005 that were sponsored by unnamed pharmaceutical companies and looked like peer reviewed medical journals, but did not disclose sponsorship, the company has admitted. (28) (29) (30)

**The MHRA in Britain:** This department, which oversees a wide range of committees that license and approve the safety of new pharmaceuticals, is completely funded by pharmaceutical companies. All of the MHRA committees that regulate the licensing drugs are 'packed' with medical research workers and doctors who have ties to the pharmaceutical companies whose drugs they give clearance to. There is no lay representation. Anyone asking for copies of minutes for specific meetings under the Freedom of Information Act gets redacted copies, sometimes with all names blacked out. (31) (32)

**Adverse Reactions:** The regulatory agencies that pass drugs for licensing also record adverse reactions. It is commonly believed that the MHRA pick up only 10% of adverse reactions.

**Defeating competition:** The MHRA has an office that sends out letters to practitioners and distributors of alternative treatments to trick them into offering treatments and supplements. This unit, staffed by ex-Scotland Yard detectives (why did they leave the Yard one might ask) is closely linked to local media outlets which promote its investigations and use their own staff to help compromise alternative practitioners. The unit can bring cases in the crown court without using the Crown Prosecution service or other State facilities. (33)

**Infiltration of civil society:** By joining a whole slew of organisations and taking up positions on their boards, the pharmaceutical companies manage to infiltrate civil society. Two of the most obviously disgusting examples of this involved the recruitment onto the board of GlaxoSmithKline of James Murdoch, the son of Rupert Murdoch and Manager of all London Murdoch media. James Murdoch was recruited as a non-executive director and member of the **corporate responsibility committee** in 2009, during the Sunday Times engineered attack on Dr Andrew Wakefield, but stepped down in 2012 from the £100,000-a-year post. (This was at the same time that Scotland Yard was investigating all kind of unethical practices at the News of the World (NOW) which resulted in an Old Bailey trial of NOW staff) (34) (35)

A less successful interference in civil society was with Paul Blackburn, senior vice-president and financial controller of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), who was invited on to Ofsted, the schools regulating authority. Blackburn was thrown off Ofsted after *The Mail on Sunday* highlighted fears of a potential conflict of interest. Schools were then having difficulty in vaccinating girls as young as 12 at school with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) cervical cancer vaccine, for which GlaxoSmithKline had won a controversial £100 million contract. Some have heralded the HPV vaccine as possibly the greatest disaster in the history of medicine. (36)

**The General Medical Council (GMC)** This is the Professional body for doctors in the UK. It has a private detective agency owned by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), the professional trade association of the Pharmaceutical industry, staffed by ex police officers and members of the trade Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry, which investigate cases not of doctors who breach ethical guidelines but of those doctors who challenge the profitability of, or who might whistle blow on the pharmaceutical companies. They help

journalists like Brian Deer to write up cases, such as the one against Dr Wakefield and pass these cases on to the GMC, which prosecutes them as if they were ethical infringement cases. (37)

**Claims for liability:** Pharmaceutical companies that come under attack from those suffering adverse reactions do everything they can to ensure that groups of *afectados* are unable to bring court cases to claim compensation. There is no 'no win, no fee' system in the UK, most lawyers are too frightened and establishment minded to take liability cases to court. Legal Aid was withdrawn from 1,500 MMR vaccine cases and after a ten-year struggle to get the cases before the court, all the cases fell just prior to trial. Dr Wakefield was to be an expert witness in the case. In other large cases of pharmaceutical damage, such as Avandia, a diabetes drug said to be an FDA research worker to have killed over 100,000 patients, or Vioxx, which it is said killed 27,000, no cases were heard in the UK. So ending a thousand year old legal practice of claiming for damages. Ultimately, cases can only be run in Britain if legal aid is provided to fund the claimants cases. Legal aid is controlled ultimately by the government.

The pharmaceutical companies are extraordinarily close to government in the UK. The offices of the ABPI are literally just round the corner from Downing street in Whitehall, the road of linked to government buildings between Downing Street and Parliament. Throughout the Thatcher administration and the Blair administration there was an everyday exchange between the pharmaceutical corporations and the senior government figures.

The pharmaceutical companies are deeply embedded in Parliament performing all kinds of information and propaganda tasks for Members of Parliament. During the Wakefield case even the money-grabbing multimillionaire Prime Minister Tony Blair confirmed to the press that Wakefield was crooked. 'I told you', he said, 'there is more to that case than you realise'.

**Deaths:** Despite massive numbers of deaths, there is never any police investigations into them and the role of pharmaceutical companies. Through adverse reactions to drugs, bad medical practices and accidental deaths during procedures, Death by Medicine is now the number one cause of death in America.

'The total number of iatrogenic deaths shown in the following table is

783,936. It is evident that the American medical system is the leading cause of death and injury in the United States. The 2001 heart disease annual death rate is 699,697; the annual cancer death rate, 553,251'.  
(38)

The pharmaceutical corporations, those who are meant to be researching and solving our health care problems, are an abomination.

## **Conclusions**

From the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, vaccinations have been accompanied by the deaths and injury of children. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Britain there was such a strong campaign against vaccination that the British government had to introduce legislation to make them mandatory. Those who still refused to put themselves at risk appeared before courts and were sent to prison. However, the movement was so strong that campaign groups raised money for mothers and children to live during these prison sentences. Houses auctioned by the State were bought up by campaigners and returned to their previous occupants.

It would seem to be a general 'rule of thumb' that in a 'democratic' society no one should be coerced, by a central power, the negation of any coercion being a valid and proper manifestation of the 'Rights of Man and of Women'. And in a 'democracy it is clearly the case that no self appointed group, or powerful group in the shadows, has a right to make such decisions or put them into practice. In the case of vital and proven risk issues people must still be able to chose their own or their familial course of action.

The choices and alternatives must never be framed by hidden powers as propaganda but must be examined collectively and every voice heard. If this is too hard an organizational task for a democracy then it has to be overthrown and a system which involves more individual choice put in it's place.

Until the pharmaceutical industry is willing to jump off its corporate profit train speeding downhill and recognise and examine the causes of adverse reactions of vaccines in patients, there can be no compromise with them. The collective of North American citizens have to be assured, by being involved, of the safety of modes of immunization. Involved scientists and experts can put their views and act as advisers to the people, however anyone given gifts or funding in any form from the pharmaceutical companies must be censured from speaking on behalf of the people. Even after a collective discourse, at the end of the day individual citizens have to have the right to agree to or decline any vaccination. Forced vaccination should not be a part of American society, not if citizens want to maintain personal healthcare freedom.

Monopoly capitalism is little different from classic communism. Corporations infiltrate political structures and finally take them over, so that in effect the whole society is turned to the pursuit of profit for the few. All competition is stifled, corporations control which companies and which products are developed, the regulatory and scientific process is deformed in favour of the most powerful, the markets are rigged, but perhaps worst of all, no criticism is allowed. As the deaths and damage begin to pile up, the pharmaceutical cartels have on the one hand been able to avoid a critique of their industry while continuing to kill and damage millions of people. These are the terrible consequences of allowing the pharmaceutical cartels to gain power they are like a rising sea, taking over the coastal lands and drowning everyone living on the coast. Open corruption exists in every part of the industry.

I don't see the possibility of defeating the dark forces of pharmaceutical totalitarianism, especially on the vaccine issue, until the campaign turns to face the enemy full on, until there is a full public debate about the role of pharmaceutical corporatism.

At present the question of individual rights, comes into head on collision with the pharmaceutical cartels and is a clear and worrying sign that the rise of corporations are changing the system from the previous, perhaps 'faux' democracy to a form of brutal totalitarianism.

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