

Reference #1: Transcript of “60 Minutes” segment from 1978 on the swine flu

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eIE7Ct1jWw>

Transcript

00:00

[Music]

00:05

The flu season is upon us. Which type

00:09

will we worry about this year, and what

00:11

kind of shots will we be told to take?

00:13

Remember the swine flu scare of 1976?

00:16

That was the year the US government told

00:19

us all that swine flu could turn out to

00:20

be a killer that could spread across the nation, and Washington decided that every

00:25

man, woman, and child in the nation should

00:27

get a shot to prevent a nationwide

00:29

Outbreak, a pandemic. 46 million of us

00:33

obediently took the shot and now 4,000

00:36

Americans are claiming damages from

00:38

Uncle Sam amounting to three and a half

00:40

billion dollars because of what happened

00:42

when they took that shot, by far the

00:44

greatest number of the claims, 2/3 of

00:46

them are for neurological damage or even

00:49

death allegedly triggered by the flu

00:51

shot. We pick up the story back in 1976

00:54

when the threat posed by the swine flu

00:57

virus seemed very real indeed. This virus

01:01

was the cause of a pandemic in 1918 and

01:04

1919 that resulted in over half a

01:08
million deaths in the United States as
01:10
well as 20 million deaths around the
01:12
World, plus. The US government's publicity
01:17
machine was cranked into action to urge
01:19
all America to protect itself against
01:21
the swine flu menace. Influenza is
01:23
serious business.
01:24
During major flu epidemics, millions of
01:27
people are sick and thousands die. Well,
01:30
this year you can get protection. The
01:32
vaccines are safe, easy to take, and they
01:35
can protect you against flu, so roll up
01:38
your sleeve,
01:39
protect yourself. One of those who did
01:43
roll up her sleeve was Judy Roberts. She
01:45
was perfectly healthy, an active woman
01:47
when in November of 1976 she took her
01:50
shot. Two weeks later she says she began
01:53
to feel a numbness starting up her legs.
01:55
"I joked about it at that time, I said
01:58
I'll be numb to the knees by Friday is
01:59
it if this keeps up. By the following
02:02
week I was totally paralyzed."
02:05
So completely paralyzed in fact that
02:08
they had to operate on her to enable her
02:10
to breathe, and for six months Judy
02:12
Roberts was a quadriplegic. The diagnosis...
02:15
a neurological disorder called

02:17
Guillain-Barre syndrome, GBS for short.
02:20
This neurological disease is little
02:22
understood, they affect people in
02:24
different ways. As you can see in these
02:27
home movies taken by a friend, Judy
02:29
Roberts' paralysis confined her mostly to
02:31
a wheelchair for over a year but this
02:34
disease can even kill. Indeed there are
02:37
300 claims now pending from the families
02:39
of GBS victims who died allegedly as a
02:42
result of the swine flu shot. In other
02:45
GBS victims the crippling effects
02:47
diminish and all but disappear, but for
02:50
Judy Roberts, progress back to good
02:52
health has been painful and partial. "Now
02:55
I noticed that your smile, Judy, is a
02:58
little bit constricted." "Yes, is it
03:01
different from what it used to be, a very
03:03
Different. I have a greatly decreased
03:06
mobility in my lips and I can't drink
03:11
through a straw on the right-hand side. I
03:13
can't walk birthday candles
03:14
I don't whistle anymore, for which my
03:17
husband is grateful. "It may be a little
03:19
difficult for you to answer this
03:21
Question, but have you recovered as much
03:25
as you are going to recover?" "Yes, this is
03:28
It." "So you will now have a legacy of

03:30
braces on your legs for the rest of your
03:33
Life?" "Yes, the weakness in my hands will
03:35
stay and the leg braces will stay.
03:38
So Judy Roberts and her husband have
03:40
filed a claim against the US government.
03:42
They're asking 12 million dollars, though
03:44
they don't expect to get nearly that
03:45
much. "Judy, why did you take the flu shot?"
03:48
"I've never taken any other flu shots, but
03:51
I felt like this was going to be a major
03:54
Epidemic, and the only way to prevent a
03:58
major epidemic of a really deadly
04:00
variety of flu was for everybody to be
04:03
Immunized." Why did this so-called deadly
04:06
variety of flu, where did it first hit?
04:08
Back in 1976 it began right here at Fort
04:11
Dix in New Jersey in January of that
04:13
year when a number of recruits began to
04:15
complain of respiratory ailments,
04:17
something
04:17
like the common cold. An army doctor here
04:20
sent samples of their throat cultures to
04:22
the New Jersey Public Health lab to find
04:24
out just what kind of bug was going
04:26
around here. One of those samples was
04:29
from a private, David Lewis, who had left
04:30
his sickbed to go on a forced march.
04:32
Private Lewis had collapsed on that

04:34
March and his sergeant had revived him
04:36
by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but the
04:38
sergeant showed no signs of illness. A
04:40
few days later, private Louis died. "If
04:44
this disease is so potentially fatal
04:47
that it's going to kill a young healthy
04:49
man, a middle-aged schoolteacher didn't
04:51
have a prayer." The New Jersey lab
04:53
identified most of those soldiers' throat
04:55
cultures as the normal kind of flu virus
04:57
going around back here, but they could
04:59
not make out what kind of virus was in
05:01
the culture from the dead soldier and
05:03
from four others who were sick so they
05:06
sent those cultures to the federal Center
05:08
for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia
05:09
for further study. A few days later they
05:12
got the verdict: swine flu, but that
05:15
much-publicized outbreak of swine flu at
05:17
Fort Dix involved only private Lewis who
05:20
died and those four other soldiers who
05:22
recovered completely without the swine
05:24
flu shot. "If I had known at that time
05:28
that the boy had been in a sick bed got
05:31
up, went out on a forced march and then
05:34
collapsed and died I would never have
05:36
taken a shot." The rationale for our
05:39
recommendation was not on the basis of

05:41
the death of a single individual, but it
05:44
was on the basis that when we do see a
05:45
change in the characteristics of the
05:47
influenza virus, it is a massive public
05:50
health problem in this country. Dr. David
05:54
Sencer, then head of the CDC (the Center
05:56
for Disease Control) in Atlanta is now in
05:59
private industry. He devised the swine
06:01
flu program and he pushed it. "You began
06:04
to get flu shots to the American people
06:06
in October of 70 Tober first by that
06:09
time. How many cases of swine flu around
06:12
the world had been reported?" "There had
06:14
been several reported but none confirmed.
06:17
There had been cases in
06:22
Australia that were reported by the
06:24
press, by the news media. There were cases
06:28
in, none confirmed."
06:30
"Did you ever uncover any other outbreaks
06:33
of swine flu anywhere in the world?"
06:35
"No." Now nearly everyone was to receive
06:39
the shot in a public health facility
06:41
where a doctor might not be present;
06:42
Therefore, it was up to the CDC to come
06:45
up with some kind of official consent
06:47
form giving the public all the
06:49
information it needed about the swine
06:50
flu shot. This form stated that the swine

06:53
flu vaccine had been tested. What it
06:56
didn't say was that after those tests
06:58
were completed, the scientists developed
07:00
another vaccine and that was the one
07:03
given to most of the 46 million who took
07:05
the shot. That vaccine was called X53.
07:09
"Was X53 ever field-tested?" "I, I can't
07:17
say I would have - it wasn't what, I
07:20
don't know well." "I would think that
07:23
you're in charge of the program." "I would
07:25
have to check the records. I haven't
07:27
looked at this in some time." "The
07:30
information form, the consent form was
07:32
also supposed to warn people about any
07:35
risks of serious complications following
07:37
the shot, but did it?" "No, I had never heard
07:40
of any reactions other than a sore arm,
07:42
fever, this sort of thing. Judy Robert's
07:46
husband Gene also took the shot. "Yes, I
07:49
looked at that document. I signed it.
07:50
Nothing on there said I was gonna have a
07:52
heart attack, like Icky Ornerly, which I
07:54
never heard of. What if people from the
07:56
government, from the Center for Disease
07:58
Control, what if they had indeed known
08:01
about it? What would be your feeling?" "They
08:03
should have told us." "Did anyone ever come
08:06
to you and say, you know something fellas,

08:09
there's the possibility of neurological
08:12
damage if you get into a mass
08:14
immunization program?" "No, no one ever did."
08:17
"Do you know Michael Hatwig? "Yes,
08:21
ma'am."
08:21
Dr. Michael Hatwig directed the
08:24
surveillance team for the swine flu
08:25
program at the CDC. His job was to find
08:28
out what possible complications could
08:30
arise from taking the shot and to report
08:33
his findings to those in charge.
08:35
"Did you know ahead of time, doctor, that
08:38
would, that there had been case reports
08:40
of neurological disorders, neurological
08:43
illness
08:44
apparently associated with the injection
08:47
of influenza vaccine?" "Absolutely." "You did?"
08:50
"Yes." "How'd you know that?" "My review of the
08:53
literature." "So you told your superiors,
08:55
the man in charge of the swine flu
08:57
immunization program, about the
08:59
possibility of neurological disorders?"
09:01
"Absolutely." "What would you say if I told
09:03
you that your superiors say that you
09:05
never told them about the possibility of
09:07
neurological complications?" "That's
09:09
nonsense.
09:10
I can't believe that they would say that

09:13
they did not know that there were
09:14
neurological illnesses associated with
09:17
influenza vaccination. That simply is not
09:19
true. We did know that.” “I've said that dr.
09:23
Hatwig had never told me of his
09:26
feelings on this subject that he's lying
09:29
“I guess you would have to make that
09:35
assumption.” “And why does this report from
09:38
your own agency dated July 1976 list
09:42
neurological complications as a
09:44
possibility?” “I think the consensus of the
09:50
scientific community was that the
09:53
evidence relating neurologic disorders
09:56
to influenza immunization was such that
10:00
they did not feel that this association
10:02
was a real one.” “You didn't feel it was
10:05
necessary to tell, they complete all that
10:07
information?” “I think that over the years
10:12
we have tried to inform the American
10:14
people as fully as possible as part of
10:17
informing Americans about the swine flu
10:18
threat.” “Doctor Sensors, CDC, also helped
10:22
create the advertising to get the public
10:24
to take the shot. “Let me read to you from
10:26
one of your own agency's memos planning
10:30
the campaign to urge Americans to take
10:32
the shot: The swine flu vaccine has been
10:34
taken by many important persons, he wrote, for

10:37
example President Ford, Henry Kissinger,
10:40
Elton John, Muhammad Ali, Mary Tyler Moore,
10:43
Rudolf Nureyev, Walter Cronkite, Ralph
10:46
Nader, Edward Kennedy, etc.”
10:48
“It’s true I’m not familiar that
10:52
particular piece of paper, but I do know
10:54
that at least of that group, President
10:56
Ford to take the vaccination.” “Did you
10:58
talk to these people beforehand to find
11:00
out if they plan to take this?” “I did not,
11:01
no.” “Did anybody?” “I do not know.”
11:03
“Did you get permission to use their
11:04
names and your campaign?” “I do not know.”
11:08
“Mary (Tyler Moore), did you take a swine flu shot?” “No, I
11:11
did not.” “Did you give them permission to
11:13
use your name, saying that you had or
11:16
were going to?” “Absolutely not, never.”
11:18
“Did you ask your own doctor about taking
11:21
the swine flu shot?” “Yes, and at the time
11:23
he thought it might be a good idea, but I
11:26
resisted it because I was leery of
11:27
having the symptoms that sometimes go
11:29
with that kind of inoculation.” “So you
11:31
didn’t know?” “I didn’t.” “Have you spoken to
11:34
your doctor?” “Yes, and he’s delighted
11:36
that I didn’t take that shot.” “You’re in
11:38
charge,
11:39
somebody’s in charge there. This is

11:43
your advertising strategy that I have a
11:45
copy of here." Who's it signed by?" "This one
11:48
is unsigned, but you you'll acknowledge
11:52
that it was your baby, so it could have
11:55
been from Department of Health Education
11:57
and Welfare, it could be from CDC, I don't
11:59
know. "I'll be happy to take
12:03
responsibility for it. "It's been three
12:05
years now since you fell ill with GBS,
12:08
right? Has the federal government in your
12:12
estimation played fair with you about
12:14
your claim?" "No, I don't think so. It seems
12:18
to be dragging on and on and on and
12:21
really no end in sight that I can see at
12:24
this point with respect to the cases of
12:28
Guillain-Barre." Allegedly former
12:30
secretary of HW Joseph Califano too was
12:33
disturbed that there was no end in sight,
12:35
so a year and a half ago he promised
12:37
that Uncle Sam would cut the
12:39
bureaucratic red tape for victims
12:41
suffering from GBS and would pay up
12:43
quickly. "We shouldn't hold them to an
12:46
impossible or too difficult standard of
12:49
proving that they were
12:49
hurt, even if we pay a few people a few
12:52
thousand dollars that might not have
12:54
deserved it. I think justice requires

12:56
that we promptly pay those people who do
12:59
deserve.” “Who's making the decision to be
13:02
so hard-nosed about settling?” “I assume
13:06
the Justice Department is. “Griffin Bell
13:09
before he left?” Well the Justice
13:11
Department agreed to the statement I
13:13
Made; it was cleared word-for-word with
13:17
the lawyers in the Justice Department by
13:18
my HW lawyers.” “And that statement said
13:21
in effect that?” “That statement said that
13:24
we should pay Guillain-Barre a claims
13:27
without regard to whether the federal
13:29
government was negligent if they're, if
13:31
they resulted from the swine flu shot. “I
13:34
think the government knows its wrong”. “If
13:36
it drags out long enough that people
13:38
will just give up and let it go”. “I am a
13:42
little more adamant in my thoughts than
13:44
my wife is because I uh asked, I told Judy
13:48
to take the shot. She wasn't going
13:49
to take it and she never had had shots.
13:51
And I'm mad with my government because
13:55
they knew the facts, but they didn't
13:57
release those facts because they if they
13:58
had released and the people wouldn't
14:00
take it and they can come out tomorrow
14:02
and tell me there's gonna be an epidemic
14:05
and they can drop off like flies, I will not take another shot that my

14:10
government tells me to take." Meantime,
14:12
Judy Roberts and some 4000
14:14
others like her are still waiting for
14:16
their day in court.
14:23
[Music]
14:25
U.S. Government Ads: I don't need another flu shot, I had a
14:29
flu shot last year. A swine flu epidemic
14:31
may be coming
14:33
swine flu shot well I don't know I've
14:36
been thinking about it very sick man
14:42
catch me you'll want to be protected I'm
14:46
the healthiest 55 year old you ever seen
14:49
hey I play golf every weekend get a shot
14:52
of protection the swine flu shot Jill
14:59
brought it home from the office he gave
15:01
it to Betty Ann 150 and to Betty's
15:05
mother but Betty's mother went back to
15:08
California the next day on her way to
15:10
the airport she gave it to a cab driver
15:13
a ticket agent and one of the charming
15:16
stories at school to Mary Jo ascard
15:20
gave it to some educators and mrs.
15:22
Merrill got it and David to her husband
15:24
in California Betty's mother gave it to
15:28
her best friend Dottie but Dottie had a
15:30
heart condition she died
15:32
but before she died daddy gave it to her
15:35
girlfriend

15:38

The Paperboy

15:40

kind of it when she went to pick up her

15:42

children if a swine flu epidemic comes

15:46

this is how it could spread you will

15:49

want to be protected especially if

15:51

you're elderly or chronically ill get a

15:53

shot of protection the swine flu shot

15:56

[Music]