

DR. SALK GETS CHECK, MEDAL

ATLANTIC CITY (N. J.), June 7.—(AP)—Dr. Jonas Salk, described as a “humble scientist,” was given a \$10,000 check and gold medal by an insurance company today for his development of a polio vaccine and was advised:

“For the love of Pete, put it on the mortgage!”

The suggestion that Salk should keep the money for himself, instead of turning it over to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis as he has with other contributions, came from Dr. Elmer Hess of Erie, Pa., president-elect of the American Medical Association.

Hess made the Criss Award to Salk on behalf of the Mutual of Omaha, a mutual benefit and accident association that honored the scientist “for his selfless contribution to the development of a vaccine against polio.”

“You’ve worked all your life for a very small salary,” Hess said, as he waved the \$10,000 check at Salk and told him to use it for his own needs.

Salk, in accepting the award, said “this fills to overflowing the cup of satisfaction.”

Mutual’s Criss Award is given annually to an individual, who, in the opinion of a board of judges, “has made the greatest contribution to public health during the year.”

Hess took the occasion to comment that the current polio vaccine situation is in “a state of extreme confusion” and that “politics and science are incompatible.” He said it showed what could happen “if Government took over medicine.”

At the same time, Hess commended President Eisenhower, Surgeon General Leonard Scheele and Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of Health, Welfare and Education, for their handling of the situation.