THE PRESIDENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING FACTS. EPIDEMIC CONDITION
OF INFLUENZA MANIFESTED ITSELF MIN October Six, WITH REPORT OF TWO HUNDRED CASES
ON THAT DAY. THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES ROSE RAPIDLY TO OCTOBER 25 WHEN WE HAD 2004.
OUR BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH DR. WILLIAM C. HASLING, HEALTH OFFICER, ADVISED
OCTOBER TWENTIETH THAT CAUSE MASKS BE WORN AS MEASURE TO PREVENT SPREAD. ON
OCTOBER TWENTY ONE BY PROCLAMATION I CALLED UPON ALL CITIZENS TO WEAR MASKS. RED
CROSSED COOPERATED WITH ADVERTISEMENTS TO SAME EFFECT. ON THE TWENTY FIRST A FEW
THOUSAND MASKS WERE GIVEN OUT BY RED CROSS AND WERE SEEN UPON THE STREETS STOP
BACKING BY PROCLAMATION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PASSED ORDINANCE ORDAINING UNIVERSAL
WEARING OF MASKS. BY TWENTY THIRD PRACTICALLY WHOLE POPULATION WAS MASKED AND
THOSE FAILING TO WEAR THEM BECAME CONSPICUOUS AND OBJECTS OF CRITICISM. THE
EPIDEMIC BEGAN TO DECLINE FIVE DAYS AFTER FIRST MASKS WERE WORN AND THREE DAYS
AFTER USE BECAME GENERAL AND PRACTICALLY MANDATORY AND ON THE SIXTH DAY NEW CASES
DROPPED ABOUT HALF. DEATHS AT PEAK WERE 194 IN ONE DAY. YESTERDAY ONLY 108 AND
INDICATIONS OF LESS NUMBER TODAY. HEALTH AUTHORITIES ATTRIBUTE DECLINE VERY
LARGELY TO MASKS. OF COURSE EVERY OTHER MEASURE BEING TAKEN, MASKS IS NOW BEING
USED AND WE HOPE FOR FURTHER DECREASE. THESE FACTS ARE RESPECTFULLY PLACED BEFORE
YOU BECAUSE WE BELIEVE MASKS HAVE SAVED VAST AMOUNT OF SUFFERING AND HUNDREDS OF
LIVES. OUR HEALTH BOARD ACTED UPON ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND SAN FRANCISCO
WAS FIRST BIG CITY TO ADOPT UNIVERSAL WEARING. UNDERSTAND PORTLAND AND SEATTLE
HAVE THERE TAKEN SAME MEASURES. WITH EVERY GOOD WISH FROM SAN FRANCISCO,

JAMES ROBIN, JR.,
MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO.