

practice and the practice in this country that it should be that these agents should be curtailed. The UGDP study's conclusions should be accepted.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Palumbo, did you people at the Mayo Clinic stop using these drugs?

Dr. PALUMBO. We have stopped using them routinely. We were never very "gung-ho" about them in the first place, but we had used them prior to 1970. When the results of the University Group Diabetes Program came out, we accepted the conclusions and adjusted our practice accordingly.

Subsequent to that, a couple of our members of the department of statistics and epidemiology looked into the matter with a whole group of people with Dr. Cornfield in the group, and they came up with the conclusion in 1971 or 1972 that the studies were valid and that the conclusions were justified despite all of the possible, you know, flaws or criticisms you can point out with any prospective study.

We had accepted these conclusions as valid in 1970 when the results were promulgated. We do not use the agents routinely, only under the unusual circumstance if a patient says, I absolutely refuse to take insulin, then we usually assign them to an oral hypoglycemic agent. I still have this reservation that we are using these agents solely to control blood sugar; and we are not absolutely convinced that the control of blood sugar makes any difference anyway.

In fact, that is one of the findings from the UGDP study that perhaps blood glucose did not have any relationship to complications, and so you are introducing an agent to control blood sugar which of itself may be harmful to the patient.

I think there is no question that this agent has to be curtailed.

The CHAIRMAN. Curtailed, did you say?

Dr. PALUMBO. Curtailed, c-u-r-t-a-i-l-e-d.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Doctor.

We will proceed to the next witness, and as I stated a few moments ago, feel free to comment on any question asked or any statement made by other witnesses.

Our next witness is Dr. Henry Ricketts, University of Chicago Medical School, Department of Medicine.

Dr. Ricketts, we are very pleased to have you here this morning. You may present your statement however you desire.

STATEMENT OF HENRY T. RICKETTS, M.D., PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Dr. RICKETTS. Thank you very much.

I feel a little embarrassed to read the first paragraph, but I suppose I ought to declare myself as to what I am.

I studied—well, first of all, I am emeritus professor at the University of Chicago Medical School. I have studied diabetes and cared for patients with diabetes and conducted researches in this specialty for 34 years. I have been president of the American Diabetes Association and cofounder and president of the Chicago Diabetes Association.