

amphenicol and dihydroestreptomycin. As you may know, streptomycin, although not commonly in small doses, carries the risk of causing deafness. Thus, if you take this fine combination, you run the risk of becoming deaf before you die. And its usefulness for most causes of diarrhea commonly seen is negligible.

Senator BEALL. Is that drug available in the United States?

Dr. WEGMAN. I do not know, but as far as I know it is not.

Senator BEALL. It would not be permitted to be made available in the United States?

Dr. WEGMAN. I believe so because the FDA is opposed to fixed combinations of antibiotics.

But the chloramphenicol is far the more dangerous drug.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Zander has prepared a listing of their own investigation and copies of some of the material, copies of this ad, copies of the letters written by the drug companies to doctors and to pharmacists urging the use of this combination and other formulations of chloramphenicol.

Senator BEALL. We will receive that for the record and we will also print it in the record of these hearings.

Dr. WEGMAN. Thank you, sir.¹

In our seminar at Ann Arbor we recognized that, in any free-market society, it is the ethical duty of management of a company to make profit for its stockholders, but it seems to us there is equal ethical responsibility to present to all physicians and pharmacists objective and complete information not just on the utility but on the dangers of its products. Every physician knows that every single drug he uses, even the salt that he uses, has risks that go with benefits. The problem is getting the balance between these two. It seems to us that in the advertising and the promoting of these drugs human considerations must come before profit considerations.

It may be, Mr. Chairman, that this conflict is irreconcilable. It may be that the profit motive is never going to let the companies give out every bit of information, some of which is going to interfere with their profits. If that is so, then it seems to me that the kind of pressures that can be built-up through public hearings such as this, through the measures that Dr. Lee suggested in his testimony, can keep the subject constantly before the public and keep constant pressure on the pharmaceutical houses.

What can the U.S. Government do? I am told by my colleagues in the Pan American Health Organization and in the World Health Organization that our Food and Drug Administration has cooperated well with international health organizations in supplying information. I think FDA ought to be encouraged in those efforts and asked to help even more. It would be very useful if other parts of Government—the Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and other parts of Government involved in international export—would also recognize that health considerations for human beings everywhere have great significance for us right here.

Now I am aware—I think you brought this out yourself—there is little that can be done through our laws to control a foreign subsidiary

¹ See letter dated May 31, 1976, to Senator Gaylord Nelson, from Mrs. Alvin F. Zander, page 15485.