

program and for improving the training of all people in the health professions. Pharmacists may be as important as physicians. Pharmacists are prescribing drugs, legally or illegally, but they are fundamentally human beings with an interest in saving lives, and with better education they will do a better job.

Finally, one very important aspect has to do with international information system. The World Health Assembly is going on right now in Geneva. I am not sure whether the Director-General's report on the feasibility study will have come before this Assembly or not, but it is sure to be discussed at the next Assembly a year from now. This gives ample time for the United States to prepare a position of strong support. My own feeling is that, although the legal aspects need to be pursued, information, education, and moral pressure, are exceedingly important.

Mr. Chairman, I want again to echo the words of my predecessors in congratulating you and the committee on bringing this matter before the public.

Thank you.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Dr. Wegman, for your testimony.

It seems to me that you make a very important point about communications. I think obviously it is necessary for us to do everything we can to impress upon the conscience of the producers the necessity of making the same information available all over the world wherever they are marketing the drug. And I also think that by our example, hopefully, we can get other producers in other countries to follow us and come up to our standards as we do in so many things rather than have us be dragged down to theirs. But it seems to me that for the immediate future we also have to spend a great deal of our effort in improving communications through the international organizations so that the word gets out to people who are dispensing drugs poorly because of lack of training. You are suggesting, I believe, that we devote some time to strengthen the organizations so that they can develop better means of communicating with professionals and semiprofessionals and unskilled dispensers, particularly in South America. And I think that is a very worthwhile suggestion.

Dr. WEGMAN. We also see, I think, Mr. Chairman, the value of strengthening our own abilities in the United States. The example of smallpox eradication will have very great benefits throughout the world. The leader in the World Health Organization for that program happens to be from the CDC in the United States, Dr. D. A. Henderson. The major impetus to that program was given by the U.S. Government with a regional program in Africa. And because of the research capability of that U.S.-backed group, they were able to find out how best to proceed to achieve effective eradication. The development of drug-resistant diseases and drug-resistant bacteria are a new kind of problem. Enhancing the ability of our own CDC to study this problem, and disseminate the information, would add another dimension.

There was one other thing—I just made a note of this as we were going along—which may be appropriate. In the United States major foundations and major universities, both private and public, have very large investments in the drug industry. Ought not those foundations exert influence on the policies of those companies through the stocks