

Dr. WEGMAN. You have anticipated me. I wanted to bring that in.

I had a fascinating visit to Cuba last summer and I was able to contrast it a little bit with China, the other Socialist society that I had visited. My situation in Cuba was quite different from China, as Phil remembers. When we were there, we were deaf, dumb and blind because we could not read or understand Chinese. In Cuba, I am completely fluent with the language and I have been there many times before so that I was able to make comparisons. One thing was very striking. I passed a number of drug stores as I was driving around—I was visiting the Ministry of Health on Pan American Health and Education Foundation and PAHO business—and the drug stores all had almost empty shelves. So I asked what was going on here, and they said well, up to January 1959 our drug stores on a worldwide basis stocked some 40,000 pharmaceutical items. Today, the list is down to 1,400.

I might point out—and I do not necessarily wish to say that there is any causal relation—that health indices in Cuba have improved dramatically since 1959. The infant mortality has dropped to where it is by far the lowest in Latin America. I am ashamed of the fact that for so many years the Cubans were unable to get antibiotics that they needed during the blockade. Now they are getting them in other ways. But I think there is a distinct advantage to the fact that the amount of drugs they have been able to import has been cut down.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, doctors. We appreciate your coming this morning.

And we will recess the subcommittee until tomorrow morning at 9:30.

[Whereupon, at 11:58 a.m., the subcommittee was recessed, to reconvene at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 27, 1976.]