Testimony, May 26, 1976, before Subcommittee on Monopoly, U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business.

I am Myron E. Wegman, John G. Searle Professor of Public Health at the University of Michigan*and Dean Emeritus of the School of Public Health.

My presence here today has two bases: my long concern with health in Latin America and my present position as chairman of an ad hoc seminar on achieving rational use of medicines. My contacts with Latin America date back twenty-five years, from early consultation work and then almost nine years of full-time employment with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization and Regional Office of the World Health Organization, the last four years as Secretary-General. I have traveled extensively in the Americas and still serve as consultant to the Bureau in a variety of ways. I am also a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Health Manpower.

Our seminar in Ann Arbor was stimulated by Professor and Mrs. Alvin Zander, who brought together a group of us, including professors from a variety of fields, including medicine, dentistry, law, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, and ethics, to examine various aspects of the problem of achieving rational use of medicines. The Zanders have faced personal tragedy in the loss of a daughter under circumstances overwhelmingly suggestive of the fact that medicine she had received while on foreign travel was not rationally prescribed for the illness she was suffering. She died of the type of blood dyscrasia described over and over again before this committee.

As we got into the problem we could hardly believe the frightfully misleading and incomplete promotion of drugs in many countries of the world, including Spain and Latin America. We learned early that many drug companies

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