

Senator NELSON. Our next witness is Dr. Robert H. Furman, vice president, corporate medical affairs, Eli Lilly & Co., who will be accompanied by Edgar G. Davis, vice president, corporate affairs, and John Holt, secretary and general counsel, pharmaceutical division.

Dr. Furman, would you identify your associates for our reporter so any comments they may have would be accurately reported in the record?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT H. FURMAN, M.D., VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE MEDICAL AFFAIRS, ELI LILLY & CO., ACCOMPANIED BY EDGAR G. DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE AFFAIRS; AND JOHN M. HOLT, SECRETARY AND GENERAL COUNSEL, PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION

Dr. FURMAN. I am Robert H. Furman, M.D., vice president, corporate medical affairs, Eli Lilly & Co.; and with me, next to me, is Mr. John Holt. To his left is Mr. Edgar G. Davis, vice president, corporate affairs.

Senator NELSON. You may submit your statement or proceed in any way you desire.

Does anyone other than you have a prepared statement?

Dr. FURMAN. No, sir, I am the spokesman.

Senator NELSON. If they have comments they wish to make, they may do so.

Before I forget it, let me say that the record will be open for 2 weeks, so that anyone who desires may submit additional material.

Dr. FURMAN. Thank you, sir. On behalf of myself and my associates, I want to express our appreciation for the opportunity to appear and state our views.

Lilly has been engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals for the health professions since 1876. The company maintains one of the largest private pharmaceutical research programs in the world. There are 67 full-time physicians—M.D.'s, that is—exclusive of industrial health physicians.

Lilly provides a broad range of products for human medical needs and backs them up with extensive programs of medical and technical support. Lilly was the discoverer and developer of propoxyphene products, which it markets under its Darvon® trademark.

Extensive experience and study have demonstrated that propoxyphene products are safe when used as directed and that they are effective pain-relievers. Lilly knows of no death that has occurred when propoxyphene was properly used, and no previous witness has testified to the contrary. This point deserves emphasis because problems associated with the safety of other drugs have occurred with the use of the drug in recommended dosage.

Like any drug, propoxyphene can be abused. The vast majority of patients who receive Darvon use it properly. But there are some people who take Darvon in excessive doses and who take many drugs at one time—often along with alcohol. Frequently, their motives are suicidal. This kind of drug abuse is a medical and social problem that transcends