

into what came to be called the "Red Book." The company lawyer, Mr. Holt, marked the hours he worked those days in his pocket agenda. He logged 16 on one and 20 on another.

THE RED BOOKS DEPART

The Red Book, nearly an inch thick, was compiled and bound during the afternoon and evening the day before the deadline. At 12:40 A.M. Dec. 29, Mr. Holt took a box of 20 and left for the Indianapolis airport, and the books departed later that morning at 7 A.M. on an American Airlines flight to Washington. Mr. Stitle met the flight and then hurried around the capital, delivering 10 copies to the F.D.A., three to the D.E.A., and a couple to Covington & Burling.

By then, another shoe was falling. Mr. Stitle learned that Senator Nelson was likely to hold hearings on the Wolfe petitions. That would put the Darvon affair squarely before the public. Senator Nelson himself couldn't banish Darvon, but he could bring immense pressure on the regulators to do so, and he could certainly heat up the debate.

"Originally, we thought we would have to do an analysis for the regulatory agencies involved," said Mr. Davis. "Now we had to be sure that the complex scientific view of things was communicated and developed with recognition that the data would be examined by people who were not regulators."

And Dr. Furman added: "The Nelson hearings meant we would have to over-prepare. We would have to conjure up dirty questions, false accusations, misinterpretations of things we have said."

The Darvon Working Group proceeded with its final submission to the regulators, this one a blue book nearly 2 inches thick, but now much of the group's attention was shifting to Washington. Mr. Stitle began working hours like Mr. Holt's. His 8-year-old son asked when daddy was coming home from vacation. Mr. Stitle didn't go on vacation but he never got home before 8-year-olds go to bed.

INVITATION TO THE HEARINGS

He and Mr. Davis, Dr. Furman and Raymond O. Clutter, assistant corporate secretary and general counsel, made a trip to see the Nelson staff to brief it on their view of Darvon.

"We've heard reports that you would look at this," Mr. Stitle recalled saying. "If you're going to have hearings, we want to appear." Mr. Stitle also visited other senators on the subcommittee. "These are the allegations," he told them. "These are Eli Lilly's view of the facts. Here's what Dr. Wolfe is saying. These are what we think the fallacies are."

Senator Nelson wrote to Mr. Davis on Jan. 15 formally inviting Lilly to testify at the hearings. They would be held on Jan. 31, Feb. 1 (a Wednesday and Thursday), and on Feb. 5 (a Monday). Dr. Furman, who won a top debating award while a student at Union College in Schenectady, would speak for the company. Lilly decided.

Dr. Wolfe would testify on the first day, but Lilly's turn wouldn't come until the third. That presented a problem: The press could be expected to cover the opening session, where it would report Dr. Wolfe's charges, but it would be six days before Lilly could present its side.

This time, Lilly was ready. On the day that Dr. Wolfe appeared, Lilly had news releases ready giving its side of the issue, and to assure the company similar exposure on the networks, Mr. Davis stood ready to be interviewed.

He made his debut on ABC, and moments later his secretary in Indianapolis received a call from a woman in Los Angeles who wanted to know if she could keep taking Darvon.

Nevertheless, the hearings were rough. It was clear even to Lilly that Darvon, after two decades on the market, was neither a fully effective nor entirely safe drug. "I would imagine that Darvon's days are probably numbered," observed Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., a Connecticut Republican and heir to the Squibb drug fortune, the panelist most sympathetic to Lilly's position.

"We ourselves" said Dr. Furman, "will probably come up with a better product."