

interested in testifying. So the first request I got was from E. R. Squibb & Sons.

For the fourth time, I repeat the invitation of the subcommittee to Mr. Stetler and the drug manufacturers to advise us when they wish to testify.

So that there will be no question about the subcommittee's willingness to hear him, I will remain at the presiding officer's chair at the close of this set of hearings on June 29, to consider requests to testify from Mr. Stetler or any other representatives of the drug industry. A date will be set to hear them, just as dates will be set to hear the three firms which have already responded to my invitations to them to testify.

I hope that, with that question settled, we can get back to the serious questions which form the subject of this inquiry. The subcommittee has an important task to perform, and we will not be dissuaded by attempts to divert us or to inflame public opinion against us.

From the very first day of the hearings it has been perfectly clear that the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association intended to indict the committee rather than supply us with any information about the important questions that exist. I am sure that that does not represent the position of the many very fine companies that the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association represents, and two companies have come to me privately to say so.

Senator HATFIELD. Senator Nelson.

Senator NELSON. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. Senator Nelson, I would like to make a comment. I appreciate the statement that you have just made for the record. I would like to add to that statement that prior to the beginning of these hearings, I had conversations with both representatives of various pharmaceutical houses as well as the chairman of this subcommittee, and I recall that even during the first one or two hearings, the chairman reiterated what he told me prior to the beginning of this hearing—that all parties would have an opportunity to be heard, and there is nothing that the chairman has done or said that would indicate contrariwise.

I assured these representatives of the pharmaceutical houses that they would have this kind of opportunity, and if they did not find it convenient or they did not find it possible to testify at certain times, I would like to be informed and I would certainly take it up with the chairman.

I have not been informed to the contrary, so from everything I know from my contacts with the pharmaceutical houses, with my contact with the chairman as a member of this subcommittee, I want to assure the chairman that I can certainly second his comments here as to the procedures that have been followed and are being followed to give fair and equitable hearing to all parties.

Senator NELSON. I want to thank you, Senator Hatfield.

The fact of the matter is I have had the opportunity over a period of some 18 years to serve on legislative committees. I never have intentionally conducted an unfair hearing any time in my life, and I do not intend to now.

This committee wishes to hear the most informed and the best testimony we can get involving various problems in this field. This