

Senator HATFIELD. But if I read your language correctly here——
Dr. WILLIAMS. Maybe you don't.

Senator HATFIELD. Are there no patents that are given for other products that are developed out of the laboratories of research in various industries in our free enterprise society, and that enjoy certain preferential treatment in the marketplace?

Dr. WILLIAMS. Yes, but you have the choice of whether you want to buy them or not. You have a choice of whether you want to buy an Oldsmobile with certain patented products on it, or a Ford, or no car at all. In this particular case——

Senator HATFIELD. I think you should delineate though between a research product and the product that comes out of research which may be prescribed by a doctor in the course of a personal relationship between a doctor and a patient.

I think you are getting far afield in the field of economics here about making this as an inducement on the drug industry. I think it is a little unfair, because I think you will find that many industries, in fact, most of our products today come out of research laboratories and upon many of these patents are given. As a result of those patents, you could say they enjoy a preferential treatment in the marketplace.

Dr. WILLIAMS. Right.

Senator HATFIELD. And also I would say that out of this exercise of research and patent acquisition you stimulate further research. To hold the drug industry up here as a special case in point I think is not quite fair.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I think later on in my statement I clear this up, and I think, lay the blame at the door where I think the blame should be laid.

Senator HATFIELD. Good.

Dr. WILLIAMS. And it is always dangerous I suppose for a pharmacologist to get into the area of economics.

7. The enormous pressure of advertising and detailing creates a market sometimes where none exists and unfortunately, for good medical practice, this may lead physicians to the use of unnecessary or even unsafe drugs.

Mr. GORDON. Can you give us some examples?

Dr. WILLIAMS. Yes. I think that you have had examples presented previously. I think the antibiotic field is one of these, and the use of penicillin for the treatment of the common cold, which is demanded from the physician by the patient in this case, the overuse of antibiotics by physicians, in general, lead to serious and even fatal antibiotic reactions. I think in the absence of quite so much advertising pressure, there would be less of this.

In my own area, the present exploitation of the field of tranquilizers has resulted in a great deal of addiction, and the beginnings of drug abuse in our society, in a group of people who previously were not involved in this, and this can be documented again and again.

I look on the above seven statements almost as statements of self-evident fact and except for item 7 I am not sure that there is anything that should not be so in the above statements. For if I believe in a free economy—and I do—then I must agree in a company's right to invent, patent, and sell its product. Here is where I think, Senator Hatfield, I answer your question as to my stand.