

Dr. GARB. Well, theoretically they should identify the drug just as the name morphine identifies the drug morphine. They give you no more information about the constitution of the drug chemically or otherwise than do names like morphine, insulin, atropine. What they accomplish—

Senator NELSON. Or Dexedrine, which is a trade name.

Dr. GARB. Yes, sir; Dexedrine is a trade name.

Senator NELSON. I know. Does it give you any more information than that?

Dr. GARB. Well, yes. Again, it is the matter of a coding system in effect.

Senator NELSON. Does Dexedrine tell you any more than dextro-amphetamine does?

Dr. GARB. It probably tells you less, unless you happen to know what the code means.

Senator NELSON. What do you mean by code?

Dr. GARB. The private product name such as Dexedrine, if you know all about it, tells you that it is a dextroamphetamine which is made by Smith, Kline & French, but you have to memorize these things, you see.

Senator NELSON. But this is what I am getting at. Couldn't Pharmacopeia or FDA have suggested the official name or the adopted name and have said Dexedrine should be the generic name and then the company Smith, Kline & French could come along and say we will call it dextroamphetamine.

Dr. GARB. That is right.

Senator NELSON. And neither one tells you more than the other.

Dr. GARB. Neither one tells you more than the other, that is correct.

Senator NELSON. Each one has to be memorized.

Dr. GARB. That is right. That is exactly correct, yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. Now where did these complicated names that you just listed come from?

Dr. GARB. These particular names were made up by the manufacturers. In the days before the Kefauver-Harris law, the responsibility for making up the generic name was left to the manufacturer, who first produced the drug, and in those days there were even drugs which had more than one generic name. I mean if two manufacturers developed the drug at about the same time, they could each give it a different generic name and they could even change generic names. This has been changed now in the law, and today the FDA has to approve the new generic names.

Senator NELSON. Who proposes the generic name that the FDA approves?

Dr. GARB. The company proposes it, I believe, but there are certain guidelines now that didn't exist before. Names today are getting a little less complicated than they used to be. They are still a little more complicated than I would like.

Senator NELSON. Don't they continue to be more complicated than the trade name?

Dr. GARB. Oh, yes.

Senator NELSON. Well, what is the explanation for that?

Dr. GARB. I think you would have to ask the FDA that. I couldn't tell you the explanation. I know that the FDA now has the power to