

plicity of drugs that have come onto the market. Is that what you are saying about the lack of the power of the AMA?

Dr. GARB. No, sir.

Senator NELSON. I think I am quoting him roughly correctly.

Dr. GARB. Yes, I heard that part of his testimony, Senator. I would say that I agree with him in part. I think that the AMA could probably do more than it is doing, but I think we could say this about anybody or any group.

However, I don't think that the AMA has the power or ever had the power to recitify the present situation in relation to these brand names.

Senator NELSON. I wasn't really referring to that. I was referring to the fact of furnishing information to doctors.

Dr. GARB. The AMA is doing a good job on that. They have been improving considerably over the last few years. They now have a feature which I find most helpful, a short one or two page summary of new drugs as they come out, I think they are probably doing as much as they can do in this particular area.

Senator NELSON. You were here yesterday during Dr. —

Dr. GARB. During most of Dr. Williams' testimony.

Senator NELSON. He spoke also about the tremendous dimensions of the problem, and again his testimony speaks for itself so I hope my paraphrasing doesn't distort it. But to summarize what I understood him to say, he thought that the Government, through various ways, should test drugs, to do it by contracting, but in any event, it could test the drugs chemically. It could contract for clinical tests in addition to the chemical evaluation of the drugs. That it could out of all of this prepare what in effect would be a national compendium I suppose, which listed all the drugs generic and trade name, and listed the side effects and composition and the use of the drug, and as I understood him to say, he thought that was an absolutely necessary thing to do, that it would cost a considerable amount but it was necessary to do for the good practice of good medicine, and that it ought to be done, and that he thought the Government was the only one that could do it. Now I think I have roughly summarized it.

Dr. GARB. This was my impression of his testimony also.

Senator NELSON. Do you agree with that?

Dr. GARB. 100 percent, absolutely.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Senator HATFIELD. I would like to pursue with you this thought for a moment. If I understand you correctly, you do agree with Dr. Williams and others who have testified that there has been on the part of some physicians misprescribing and ill effects that have come out of that. It could be classified as lack of understanding on the part of the physician, ignorance and other such matters relating to certain drugs.

You also testified I believe today that you are a counsel, you are a consultant to the AMA.

Dr. GARB. Consultant.

Senator HATFIELD. I understand also from your testimony today that you feel that this is a problem that is far too large and complex for the profession alone to handle.

Dr. GARB. It is not simply that it is large or complex, Senator. I don't think that a private organization of citizens has the power to