

change laws. That is the point. I think that the problem here lies in the way the law has been interpreted by the courts, and I think that this has to be corrected first.

Senator HATFIELD. But don't you agree that there are professional responsibilities?

Dr. GARB. Yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. In helping to find a satisfactory change in that law.

Dr. GARB. Yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. If this be so then, why has not the American Medical Association indicated some interest by appearing before this committee or indicating involvement of their profession in seeking the proper solution to this?

Dr. GARB. Well, I don't think I ought to try to interpret motivations of other people, Senator. I don't know why the AMA does a lot of the things that it does. I am a member of the AMA, but I am just one member, and I don't form their policy. I think this is a question which they ought to answer directly. I wouldn't want to guess as to why they do or do not do certain things.

Senator HATFIELD. What is your particular area of counsel in the area of pharmacology?

Dr. GARB. Sulfonamide drugs.

Senator HATFIELD. Have you counseled the AMA along this line, in your role as a consultant?

Dr. GARB. Yes. What they do is this. They prepare a book which comes out every year on new drugs, and this is a very useful book for the physician, telling him about the characteristics of new drugs, and so forth.

In preparing it, they take the information which is submitted by the manufacturer and they mail it to various consultants in the country, and they ask us to read it over and make comments. Do we think the information is clear? Do we think that the information holds together? Is it consistent with what we know about the group of drugs as a whole, and so on?

For example, I got a stack of literature about that thick on some new sulfonamide drugs and I sent back a list of comments that I believed that the manufacturer's claim was not substantiated for various reasons, and so on.

But the area—and there are many consultants for the AMA council on drugs—the area in which we are consultants is the technical one, not policymaking. Nobody has ever asked me about policies, and I have never discussed policy with any official of the AMA. I have no way of knowing why they make the decisions that they do.

Senator HATFIELD. Do you think it would be helpful to this committee to have the counsel of the AMA on this problem?

Dr. GARB. I certainly do, sir, and I think—

Senator HATFIELD. Do you think it would be in keeping with the standard, or rather, the objective of improving standards of practice that the AMA has as part of its responsibility that it should be here and represented here in these hearings?

Dr. GARB. I had assumed that they were going to be here.

Senator NELSON. They will be. The AMA representatives will be here. We have been discussing it with them.