

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt again for a moment.

It is correct, is it not, that many of the major, perhaps all of the major drug manufacturers make generic drugs too?

Dr. GARB. To the best of my knowledge, it is correct for most of them. I do not know about all of them. In fact, many of them make the drugs in bulk lots, and then sell them to small packagers.

Senator NELSON. I just want to point out that this criticism of generic drugs, I suppose, goes across the board. I do not quite accept the criticism, but if it does, it goes across the board for little generics, big generics—

Dr. GARB. Yes, it certainly does. Any criticism that applies to generic drugs could be just as—

Senator NELSON. Or to put it another way, if the quality control is not of a high standard it does not make any difference whether it is a generic or trade name drug or a big company or a little company, the result is exactly the same?

Dr. GARB. Exactly. I cannot judge the truth of these accusations which have been leveled at generic-name drugs. However, since a doubt has been raised about the purity and potency of generic drugs, that doubt should be settled at once.

After all, many patients today are receiving generic drugs. They are entitled to a wholesome, pure, effective and safe product. There is absolutely no excuse for having anything else on the market. The solution is inspection—not inspection 1 day out of every 2 years, which is the current approximate rate, but continuous inspection every day.

Senator NELSON. I assume that if you had adequate inspection, whatever that consists of, that that would be beneficial not only to the user of the drug, but to those manufacturers who had adopted the highest quality and most sophisticated standards, would it not?

Dr. GARB. Absolutely, sir.

I would say that I would look with suspicion on any manufacturer who was reluctant to have his product or his factory under continuous inspection.

Here is a label from a can of Ken-L Ration dog food, and there is a statement saying "Packed under continuous inspection of U.S. Department of Agriculture," I would like to submit this as a piece of evidence.

(The label referred to follows:)