

Dr. McCARRON. As I said before, the orders are written by the residents.

Mr. GORDON. I see, and they prescribe generically?

Dr. McCARRON. Yes.

Mr. COUGHLIN. Dr. McCarron, I notice on page 5 of your statement you enumerate the system followed in the purchase of drugs, and No. 3, you say, "A Drug Specification Committee writes the specifications for the drugs."

I am curious to know whether these are chemical specifications only, or are branded or trade-name drugs included, listed, if a therapeutic difference has been noted by the committee?

Dr. McCARRON. Yes. The specifications are written by the committee and they use the generic name unless there is a reason for not using the generic name, but most of the specifications are chemical. Some of them have to do with labeling also, and packaging.

In certain cases, if we want to limit the drug to one manufacturer, we must justify this to the Drug Specification Committee. The Therapeutic Committee sends in a statement saying why we will not accept anything but this particular drug.

Mr. COUGHLIN. Is this predicated upon your own independent testing?

Dr. McCARRON. It is usually because of experience we have had with the drug.

Mr. COUGHLIN. I am interested in a quotation which appears on page 10 of your statement, doctor. I quote:

On occasion, non-critical drugs are also specified by manufacturer because of previous experience in obtaining ineffective drugs when generic equivalents were used.

I notice that you alluded to the thyroid hormone during your testimony as an example of this. I was wondering if you have any other examples or if you know of other drugs that fall in that category?

Dr. McCARRON. Well, I have a list here of all the drugs we buy by specified manufacturer. I am not sure what all the reasons were for this, but I can tell you some of them.

Under antibiotics, for parenteral use, we specify chloramphenicol from Parke, Davis. We found when you added the generic equivalent for chloramphenicol to water the drug clumped and did not go into solution so obviously the patient wasn't going to get the right amount of drug. We just said we don't want to have this happen. We haven't had any trouble like this using Parke, Davis' brand, so we buy Chloromycetin.

Mr. COUGHLIN. May I ask you, Doctor, whether the generic brand satisfies the requirements of the U.S. Pharmacopeia?

Dr. McCARRON. It apparently did, or we wouldn't have accepted it in the pharmacy at all.

Mr. GORDON. Excuse me, doctor.

Concerning chloramphenicol, when was this that you are talking about, what was the date?

Dr. McCARRON. June 8, 1967. That is when this last list came out.

Mr. GORDON. The patent just came off.

Dr. McCARRON. The chloramphenicol patent just came off.

Mr. GORDON. That is a dangerous drug anyhow, isn't it, doctor?