

Mr. BURROWS. Very much so.

Senator NELSON. So I still do not get the explanation of why the doctor would be requiring his patients to spend \$17.90 or some other price, \$8.70, or \$17.88, when well-known corporations are producing the same drug which meets USP standards at much lower prices. There is no difference in therapeutic value, as far as we can find out. I still don't understand why a physician would prescribe the highest-priced one. On what basis does he make his judgment, is what I am trying to get at.

Mr. BURROWS. I do not think I am capable of answering that other than what I already have said.

Senator NELSON. All these prices that I have been reciting, Mr. Burrows, are prices to the druggist. They do not involve the retail price or the markup that he charges, just for clarification of the record.

Would you think it would be of any value to establish a national compendium of drugs? I assume it would have to be done in cooperation with the industry, the medical profession, and other advisers, but that it would have to be done largely, I am assuming, by the Federal Government. Do you think it would be of value to establish a national compendium in which the drugs are all listed by their generic names, brand names, and with all of the known clinical information recited alongside them? A physician would open up the national compendium, and find there all the drugs, their side effects, and the companies that manufacture them. This, of course, would also involve testing by FDA, and also involve putting in the known clinical information? Do you think this type of a national compendium would be of value to the country as a whole?

Mr. BURROWS. I think it would as long as the doctor is still allowed his prerogative of prescribing the particular drug of the particular manufacturer that he thinks best, and providing that we, as a manufacturer, are not stopped from attempting to advance and advocate our particular line of products. Those are the ones we know about. Those are the ones that we are in business to make and sell, and those are our potentials for corporate progress for the future.

Senator NELSON. I want to be sure that I was understood.

I was saying national compendium, not formulary. I am not suggesting that you have a formulary from which a physician must prescribe. I am simply saying you list the drugs in a national compendium with the pertinent information and the manufacturer as informational matter to the medical profession, the teaching hospitals and the practicing physician. That will be all that is intended, and it should not interfere with the private operations of the drug companies. That is my question.

Mr. BURROWS. I can see nothing wrong with having facts on such an important subject as drugs and health available for reference by people who have occasion to use and benefit from such information.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Mr. GORDON. I would like to clarify a couple of points. Do you sell any prednisone at all today at the price of \$17.88, any at all?

Mr. BURROWS. I think during 1966 we sold 117 bottles of 100 tablets each.

Mr. GORDON. But at one time you did sell at \$17.88; is that correct?

Mr. BURROWS. That is right.