

ion, in which to proceed. As the drug industry would be relieved of the cost of package inserts by this proposal, I believe it would be appropriate to shift the cost of the compendium to the industry. This, of course, would require legislation.

And additionally, legislation would be desirable to clarify the scope and purpose of the compendium and to realine some present provisions of the act in greater conformity with the compendium concept.

Now, a final comment on this subject—we believe that increasing access to the complete labeling of prescription drugs is in itself enough to justify publication and distribution of a drug-labeling compendium. Additionally, the compendium would list generic products together with their well-known trade name counterparts, thereby facilitating the economic prescribing of generic drugs and increasing the physician's familiarity with the presently complex drug nomenclature.

Senator NELSON. As to the type of information you recommend be included in the compendium, would you consider including the price?

Dr. GODDARD. I mentioned the possibility of a supplement as being a more appropriate way of doing this because price changes do occur rather frequently. And it would tend to minimize the value of that information in a hardbound volume that would stay on the physician's desk for a year at a time, whereas supplemental information will undoubtedly be provided to keep him current on changes on drug labeling, and so forth, perhaps as often as four times a year. So those supplements could also contain pricing information which might be useful to him.

Senator NELSON. Would you continue to update the compendium by including in it additional scientific knowledge such as a Medical Letter report on, say, prednisone?

Dr. GODDARD. No; not unless there was something derived from that letter that indicated a need for a change in labeling.

Senator NELSON. So in the compendium you would simply list the drug by generic name, the companies that manufacture this drug generically or under a trade name, the best known scientific knowledge there is about this drug, its purpose and use and side effects, and so forth?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes; that is correct. And cross index it by both trade name and generic name.

Senator NELSON. And you would think it would take about 18 months to prepare and publish such a compendium?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. And you think it would be best if the initiative, at least, came from the industry itself?

Dr. GODDARD. I would hope that the private sector of our economy would do this. You know, we have been talking about the need for good information for the physician to prescribe drugs. This would represent good information, unbiased, a source book that he could turn to daily as he needed it. I think this really would be not only in the interest of better medicine and the patients who receive the drug, but also in the long run be in the interest of the pharmaceutical firms. And I would much prefer to see them take the initiative and do the job, than have to have the Government step in and assume another function.