

Senator NELSON. A number of Members of the Congress have been interested in a compendium. How do we decide whether we are going to have to provide for it by legislation or whether the industry will do it on its own? What is the status of your dialog with the industry, so we might have some indication?

Dr. GODDARD. Well, you know, Mr. Chairman, if I could answer that question, I think we would have a compendium now in terms of what is to be done. The status is this: There is an additional meeting scheduled at the Academy where we will come together again and discuss this in the very near future.

As I said, 18 months have now elapsed since the industry brought the matter to my attention and requested, in effect, exemption from my predecessor's provision that the package inserts be published concurrently with the compendium for a 1-year period.

Now, I do not know how much longer one should allow before saying, "Well, we just have not been able to get this," and go ahead and have the Government do the job.

Senator NELSON. Are you referring to the National Academy of Sciences?

Dr. GODDARD. I am referring to the 18 months that have elapsed since the president of the PMA raised the question with me.

Senator NELSON. But you said the National Academy.

Dr. GODDARD. Well, the National Academy then became involved about a year ago, and we have had a number of meetings under their aegis since then. We have one more meeting, at least, scheduled in the very near future to discuss this again in detail. But, you see, we keep discussing it and we never get a yes or no from the PMA on it.

Senator NELSON. Is the American Medical Association participating directly?

Dr. GODDARD. They have participated. Their representatives have attended such meetings. The council on drugs of the AMA has advocated for 10 years the publication of such a volume. I do not think there is any disagreement among the scientific community that this represents an unfulfilled need, an important objective could be accomplished. But we just do not seem to be able to get off dead center.

Senator NELSON. Well, is there any dissent in the scientific community as to the question of its feasibility?

Dr. GODDARD. No, sir.

Senator NELSON. When is your next meeting?

Dr. GODDARD. Within 2 weeks. It was to have been tomorrow, but that meeting had to be canceled because not all the participants could attend.

Senator JAVITS. Would the Chair yield for one question?

Senator NELSON. Yes, Senator. Go ahead.

Senator JAVITS. Do you have statutory authority to compile this compendium but no money; or do you lack both?

Dr. GODDARD. We could publish such a compendium, Senator Javits, under present authority.

Senator JAVITS. And is there any inhibition on the part of the executive department, the President, or anybody else stopping you from doing it? You just have no money?

Dr. GODDARD. We have no money. And I made the point prior to your coming in that I would prefer to see it done by private industry.