

Mr. GROSSMAN. This is really important in these hearings; you realize that?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes.

Mr. GROSSMAN. I just want to understand, what is your position as of right now?

Dr. GODDARD. Our position is drugs generally are equivalent. These cases are the exceptions rather than the rule. I have not seen any evidence that I have asked for from the large companies to show me that this is not the case, other than on an exception basis.

Mr. GROSSMAN. So this study will hopefully—

Dr. GODDARD. Lay this to rest.

Mr. GROSSMAN. When do you assume the study will be completed?

Dr. GODDARD. It will take about 16 months to complete.

Mr. GROSSMAN. This is the same amount of time as the compendium.

Dr. GODDARD. Yes; but for different reasons.

Mr. GROSSMAN. Thank you.

Mr. GORDON. Commissioner, Dr. Solomon Garb, a rather well known pharmacologist at the University of Missouri, testified before our committee that a doctor has to assume, in order to practice medicine, that, when he prescribes any drug, it will be therapeutically effective.

Dr. GODDARD. That is correct.

Mr. GORDON. Otherwise, you cannot prescribe—

Dr. GODDARD. And we think that is our job, to be able to say: "Doctor, you can make that assumption and it is a safe one."

Mr. GORDON. They have been making it, have they not?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes; they have been, or there would not be as many companies in the marketplace as there are.

Senator NELSON. I do not have any further questions at the moment. There are, as per your first appearance, some other matters we will want to explore later and I assume we may bring that up with your staff and set another date for a hearing on some other problems we would like to discuss with you.

Dr. GODDARD. Fine.

Senator NELSON. We appreciate your testifying this morning. You have made a fine contribution.

Dr. GODDARD. Thank you.

(The prepared statement of Dr. Goddard follows:)

STATEMENT OF DR. JAMES L. GODDARD, COMMISSIONER, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman: It is a pleasure for me to again appear before this distinguished Subcommittee. As you have requested, I will amplify my previous recommendation to this Subcommittee that a Compendium of prescription drugs should be published by the United States. I will also direct my testimony to an issue which has engendered considerable controversy since my last appearance before this Subcommittee. Thus, as you have also requested, I will attempt to clarify my position on marihuana.

As you know, vital information concerning all prescription drugs is presently disseminated via the "package insert." A condensation and compilation of "package inserts" into a readily readable compendium distributed without cost to the physicians, pharmacies, hospitals, etc., would be a significant step forward in educating the health professions to the safe and effective use of therapeutic agents. It could also relieve the drug industry from the burden of printing the voluminous "package inserts" as such a compendium could appropriately replace this type of labeling.