

Dr. APPLE. Mr. Chairman, as I read the statements and the biographical sketches of the individual witnesses, I certainly was impressed with the individual qualifications of the scientists who appeared before you as well as the executives of the pharmaceutical industry.

Senator NELSON. If you have any suggestions, from your wide professional contacts, as to additional witnesses with special expertise in any aspect of the hearings that we are conducting, the chairman and the committee would appreciate your suggestions and would be willing to consider hearing them. We welcome suggestions from anybody in the related professions, whether it be pharmacy, pharmacology, medicine, or the manufacturing side of drugs. So if you can suggest witnesses who have some special knowledge in fields that have been covered or should be covered, the committee would be glad to consider calling any of the witnesses you may suggest. We do wish to have the best possible record and where viewpoints are in conflict we want to be sure that we have both sides or more, if there are more than two sides, so that the committee and the public will be better prepared to evaluate the testimony that has been presented.

I might say that some people have been critical of my conduct of these hearings on the grounds that the hearings haven't been objective or haven't been fair. It has been my attempt to make them so, and I repeat what I have said on previous occasions: We want to hear from the best witnesses representing all viewpoints of the problems that we are considering.

We can't hear everybody, of course. We have had requests from all over the United States, and we would have to run for several years to meet all the requests. But in order to have balance, we will hear testimony from those who have conflicting viewpoints about various problems that we are presenting, whether they represent industry or whether they are critical of industry, or whether they are out of the professions, practicing physicians or professors, or what have you. So if you have some suggestions we would like to put them together with the other requests that we have had and then attempt, in a balanced way, to invite the best experts that we can find so that all viewpoints will be heard.

Dr. APPLE. Mr. Chairman, we will be glad to review the list of witnesses who have already appeared and those scheduled to appear and send you any recommendations we have on that subject.

Senator NELSON. I guess, as of this date, you represent the only major profession in the health field which we have not, in fact, invited to appear before the committee. So if anybody has a complaint it is your organization, not the others. They have all at least had one witness here, but I don't want you to think that I have been intentionally discriminating against your organization.

I realize you have been called to appear here very late, just as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association has, although representatives of individual firms have been here previously.

Dr. APPLE. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, we were appearing before other Senate and House committees rather frequently the last few months and we appreciate the reprieve.

Senator NELSON. Proceed, Dr. Apple.