

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1967

U.S. SENATE,
MONOPOLY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10 a.m. in room 318, Old Senate Office Building, Senator Gaylord P. Nelson (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Nelson, Javits, and Hatfield.

Also present: Benjamin Gordon, staff economist; James H. Grossman, minority counsel; Susan H. Hewman, research assistant; and William B. Cherkasky, legislative director, staff of Senator Nelson.

Senator NELSON. The Monopoly Subcommittee of the Small Business Committee will come to order.

The subcommittee welcomes the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association this morning and its president, Mr. C. Joseph Stetler, and his associates. We appreciate having you here today to present the industry viewpoint on the important issues that are being considered by the committee. You represent a distinguished industry that has made a great contribution to the health and welfare of our country and the rest of the world. Your member companies employ a number of the finest scientists, doctors, pharmacologists, and researchers in the medical health field. Since your industry does work in the field of health directly affecting all of our citizens, the Congress, as a representative of the public, has an important responsibility to protect the public interest. The PMA and many others, including doctors, pharmacists, pharmacologists, editorial writers, and interested specialists in the health field have been critical of some aspects of the conduct of these hearings. Some have said they are unnecessary or that the subject is not a proper concern of Congress, or that the hearings are unfair or loaded against the industry.

Since I am conducting these hearings, the major responsibility is mine, subject, of course, to direction by the members of the committee itself. And, I accept that responsibility quite happily.

I have attempted to conduct these hearings as fairly and honestly as I know how. I have been conducting hearings for 20 years as a State legislature and Governor and U.S. Senator, and this is the first time I have been criticized as being unfair in the conduct of hearings.

I have repeatedly assured the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and its member firms that all valid interested groups would be heard and in proper balance. I think we are doing just that.

But since the PMA does not believe that to be the case, we will explore at some period during these hearings in detail all complaints