

Mr. STETLER. Before I begin the statement, I would like to ask this question. You have raised two important points. Do you want me to comment on those now, or did you say you would prefer to wait until later?

Senator NELSON. Well, I am happy to have you comment on it right now, if you like.

Mr. STETLER. I think it might be better.

STATEMENT OF C. JOSEPH STETLER, PRESIDENT, PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.; ACCOMPANIED BY LLOYD N. CUTLER, SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL; DR. A. E. SLESSER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF QUALITY CONTROL, SMITH, KLEIN & FRENCH LABORATORIES; AND DR. ROBERT QUINNELL, DIRECTOR, MEDICAL RELATIONS, PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. STETLER. On my comments with respect to the hearings, I have never felt nor have I ever said that this is not an appropriate activity of Congress or this committee, nor that such hearings may not be necessary.

Senator NELSON. You understand that I did not assert that you did say that. I said that various groups have made several criticisms, and one of them is that this is not an appropriate subject matter for congressional consideration. I am not aware that you have ever said that.

Mr. STETLER. As a matter of fact, I think it is a completely appropriate subject for inquiry. And my comments as to who have or who have not been heard have not related to the members of the pharmaceutical industry primarily, although I did comment that we would prefer that the PMA have an opportunity to testify before individual companies. And as you know, we discussed that before. But five companies were put on in advance.

If other companies should be here, I think they will be glad to appear. But I think the predominant view in the industry is that the subjects that have come up in these hearings, that affect the industry, can be appropriately discussed by me or by the men that I have with me from our companies and our sections.

Now, what I have said—and this is in the area of criticism——

Senator NELSON. Let me go back to that point for a minute.

As you are aware, from the very beginning, 5 days before the hearings ever started, you were in my office with your counsel to ask when you could be heard. I told you to let me know when you wanted to be heard. And I also stated very early in the hearings that I would be happy to hear from the whole industry, all its individual members, as well as the PMA.

I trust you don't think it is a matter of fairness, so far as the committee is concerned, whether we invite and schedule individual member companies to appear before or after the association, do you?

Mr. STETLER. We thought it would be preferable—it would add something to the hearing—if we could give a general presentation. As you know——

Senator NELSON. But that is not a matter of fairness, is it?