

Senator NELSON. How do you know all these organizations have asked to appear?

Mr. STETLER. They have told me they have asked to appear.

Senator NELSON. As you are well aware, we cannot hear everybody on the same day. I simply respond to that by saying that there is nobody, no group that is better prepared, it seems to me, to answer any single question about generic equivalency, quality control, or pricing than your individual members.

At the beginning of the hearings, I publicly extended an invitation to every single PMA member to appear before this subcommittee.

I will document this in the record later—I begged them to come during the first week of the hearings.

So you are not satisfied with the fact that I did not invite as witnesses some people that you would like to have. But I do not know how you can prefer any witness in the world over your own members, and I do not know of any witnesses that are better prepared to talk about generic equivalency and all the aspects of the problems that we have discussed than your own members. I have asked them to come, and they have not come. So how can you go to Chicago and say the witnesses who have been picked are loaded against you, when at any time I would have taken any one of your members and put them on, but I could not get them.

Mr. STETLER. Senator, in your remarks on the 15th, which were most appropriate, and frankly is what guided me—when these hearings started—you not only invited industry witnesses, but you very properly invited anybody with an interest in this controversy to come and be heard.

Now, I have not said that industry has been disadvantaged. What I have said is that these other groups should be heard.

Now, as far as the Academy of General Practice is concerned, they have been advised that they will not have an opportunity to be heard, that there is not enough time for them. And I think, frankly, that when they represent 30,000 active general practitioners, they have a right to be heard.

Senator NELSON. Well, the Academy of General Practice will be heard. If the staff members sent out a letter saying they won't, the staff is in error. I have said repeatedly that every valid viewpoint will be heard. I cannot hear everybody.

Yesterday, for the first time, we had testimony from a representative of the American Pharmaceutical Association. I suppose they are entitled to exactly the same complaint as you have made—they got on the same week. The Academy of General Practitioners could have the same complaint. We cannot take them all at once.

But my point is that the one advantage I gave to the industry, that I did not give, because I could not, to any other interested group was to tell you in my office, and tell them here from the chairman's chair several times that I will take any single industry witness that is willing to come because this involves them more directly, more immediately, and in more ways than any other group in America.

So in order to be fair, I said "Come on in any time you want to." They have all the expertise in the world. They manufacture the drugs. They know what generic equivalency is. No representative of the Academy of Physicians has more knowledge about this than the best