

experts in the industry. No private practicing physician can match that knowledge. No single pharmacologist could match knowledge that these big distinguished companies have themselves.

So I repeatedly said "Come on in."

Now, you charge that the hearings have heard, as you put it, only "handpicked witnesses." Well, I was trying to handpick yours. I invited them all. And they would not volunteer.

My point is that you should have said to that audience in Chicago in order to be fair yourself, "I don't like the order in which the witnesses have appeared, but my own representatives, my own 136 members, defaulted and did not step forward and volunteer to appear." Then I would not have any criticism.

But the fault lies exactly and precisely right on the shoulders of the member companies that manufacture drugs, because I begged them to come in. I cannot think of anybody better prepared to discuss this question. If they do not come, I am not to be blamed for that, am I?

Mr. STETLER. Senator, we are obviously in disagreement on this point.

Senator NELSON. Am I or am I not to be blamed for your members failing to come in and present their case?

Mr. STETLER. You are not to be blamed for that, and you have not been blamed for that. I get back to my other point.

It is the other element that I think should be heard in these hearings.

A good deal of time was spent, for instance, last Thursday, by Dr. Goddard on the subject of a drug compendium. And we came in for some kicking around on that occasion. Now, a drug compendium is allegedly for physicians. I think physicians should have a chance to tell you what they think they want or need with respect to a drug compendium. Let us hear from doctors on that one.

Senator NELSON. Where would you start? I suppose everybody could have different ideas as to where we might start to have testimony on the drug compendium. Do you know of any better place to start than with the head of the Food and Drug Administration?

Mr. STETLER. I would start with the American Medical Association or the Academy of General Practice because—

Senator NELSON. I am glad you raised that question. We invited Dr. Thomas Hayes of the American Medical Association to come before the committee—the AMA refused to let him come.

Mr. STETLER. Senator, the American Medical Association has written three times to the committee to be heard. Now, I think—

Senator NELSON. Just a minute. We invited Dr. Thomas Hayes. He is head of the drug council; is that not correct?

Mr. STETLER. Correct.

Senator NELSON. We invited him to come, and the president of the AMA refused to let him come. Do you know that?

Mr. STETLER. I think the AMA should be permitted to select their witnesses, if they are going to appear before this committee. And they did not want Dr. Hayes to be the witness.

Senator NELSON. He is head of the drug council.

Mr. STETLER. They have a lot of people in higher positions in the AMA than Dr. Hayes.

Senator NELSON. Can you speak for the president? Would the president of the AMA come?

Mr. STETLER. I do not know. I think he probably asked to come.