

Senator NELSON. We would like to have the president of the AMA. We would like to have the head of the drug council. And if they have some suggestions we will take those, too. But I don't think the AMA ought to select exclusively who would come. The fact is, as you know, that Dr. Annis, past president of the AMA, wrote to Senator Smathers and said he would like to come. He was not on the board of the AMA at that time.

Mr. STETLER. He is on the board now.

Senator NELSON. I told Senator Smathers that we will put on individual doctors when we can arrange the time. Then, when Dr. Annis became a member of the board, the AMA wrote and said, "We want Dr. Annis to speak for us." Well, I would like to hear the head of the drug council, who was willing to come, as I understand it, but who was not permitted to come by the president. I would like to have the AMA president testify. And we would take Dr. Annis, too. Is there anything unfair about that?

Mr. STETLER. I think they should be heard and I think that is a good idea.

Senator NELSON. Well, we have already invited Dr. Hayes, and they have turned that down.

Mr. STETLER. I think they are waiting now for a reply to their request to be heard.

Senator NELSON. Well, I make an open invitation to the president of the AMA, and again to Dr. Hayes, head of the drug council, to come. If they are willing to come, we will also take Dr. Annis, who was not on the board at the time that he made a personal request to come. Subsequently he went on the board, and then the AMA said, "He will speak for us." Well, that is fine, but I am not prepared to permit him to be the exclusive spokesman for the AMA, and I do not think I have to be.

Mr. STETLER. Well, I cannot comment on that, obviously.

Senator NELSON. Well, just so the public knows I invited Dr. Hayes, director of the drug council for the AMA, and he was willing to appear, but the AMA would not let him come. I think that ought to be a part of the record.

We made a public statement inviting the president of the AMA to come, too. We have not heard from that invitation.

Mr. STETLER. Senator, actually, I think you have a fairly recent letter from the AMA reiterating their desire to have a date set for them to appear.

Senator NELSON. Who is "them"?

Mr. STETLER. Whoever they select as their witness.

Senator NELSON. The letter said they want Dr. Annis.

Mr. STETLER. He is a perfectly legitimate witness. He is a member of their board, a past president of the AMA.

Senator NELSON. Fine. I am glad to have past presidents. I would like the current president.

Mr. STETLER. I am sure he will be available and willing to testify.

Senator NELSON. All right. He has not responded to our public invitation. Dr. Thomas Hayes has not been permitted to come. I want to be fair about this.

I want the AMA to be represented by their top people, their drug council. I will repeat the invitation publicly, as I have in the past, to