

It does, Senator, in the front of that break them down by year, as to number.

Senator NELSON. I had forgotten that.

Mr. STETLER. At this time, I would like to submit this document, and you have it, for the record, this listing which was prepared by Paul de Haen who is an authority on the listing of the drugs, and has done it for many years.⁵

I think this compilation is significant in your reconsideration of this great industry for it shows that the United States originated 502 of the 823 new weapons against disease and suffering which have been placed in the physician's armamentarium in the last 27 years.

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt for a moment?

You mentioned 823 new weapons against disease. Were they all brand new entities that treated some disease in a different way, or were they drugs that went on the market although there was already a drug available to treat the disease?

Mr. STETLER. Well, I am sure they varied. They are single chemical entities. Some of them replace a drug on the market for the reason probably that it was a more effective product for that particular disease. But it does not include the list of combinations or mixtures. They are really the new single entities, innovative type of drugs.

Senator NELSON. Is there any claim by the industry that in each one of these 823 cases the new chemical entity was a better and more effective drug to treat a particular condition than the ones already in existence?

Mr. STETLER. No; that is not the claim. The point is merely that each drug is effective for the claims made.

As you know, under the Food and Drug Act, that agency does not look at relative effectiveness. It looks at safety and effectiveness. So that there obviously are drugs on the market that—all or several of which treat a particular disease.

Senator NELSON. We have had some testimony that some of the drugs that come on to the market are simply drugs that treat a condition for which there is another drug already marketed that is just as good, or better, than the new drug.

What I am wondering is, do you break this 823 down in such a way as to indicate for the record how many of them are new drugs to treat a condition in a new way as contrasted with a new drug which treats a condition in the same way that other drugs in existence already do?

Mr. STETLER. Senator, that would be impossible, because of the variety in medical opinion, as to the relative effectiveness of drugs that attack the same disease entity. I am sure you would get one opinion from certain physicians, and you would get varying opinions from others. So this is not really susceptible of that kind of breakdown or documentation.

Senator NELSON. You are aware that there are distinguished people in the field of pharmacology who do state, and some have testified, others will later, I assume, that a considerable amount of research is done simply to find molecular manipulations of other drugs. These modifications, which do the same thing as the original drugs can get their own trade names, when in fact they are not necessary, and do not

⁵ Material retained in files of committee's record of the hearings.