

the committee is ready for it, we are prepared to discuss it in great detail.

Senator JAVITS. Dr. Goddard testified to the same thing on November 9—practically the same words.

Mr. STETLER. He has had this material in his hands before November 9.

Senator JAVITS. This is all lost in the whole forest of the fact that you submitted highly complex data on one product among many, and he has got it, and everything is hung up in long discussions.

I was a lawyer long enough to know how this can be done, and business can go on as usual for decades. Some cases are still pending that I had before World War II—not in this field, but in others.

What I would like to ask you is this:

Is there any plan to be affirmative and constructive that you can bring in, if we give you time to do it, which would try to make a better competitive situation than—and I think the word “we” is not inappropriate—certainly I think so—exists today?

What about an industry plan which will give the public a better break so the public can have more weight in the decision than in my judgment—I won’t join anybody else with me—it has today?

I am all for your innovations, and I am all for profits. I am very straight about that. I don’t want to thwart you in that. We don’t expect you to give the stuff away. But I think that the competitive result of letting the buyer make the decision on some concrete base which either the Government or the industry will establish will right the competitive situation, and you will not have these extremes, which seem ridiculous to me, too, of one outfit selling prednisone at \$2 and another outfit at \$17.88. I cannot believe that competitive advantage is warranted.

I am just a reasonable fellow buying it at the window and paying for it.

So I would like to ask you that—to answer it now or answer it later. But I think the industry ought to think through the deep complaint here. And I will tell you one thing. Something is going to happen. There is just too much evidence on this to let it stand as it is.

Now the question:

Isn’t it better if the industry can come in with a recommendation as to what is the best thing to do to right a serious competitive situation? And I think a serious competitive situation exists. It is very unfair to some that the public cannot tell between the fellow that charges \$2 and the fellow that charges \$17.88, just because the doctor writes cabalistic symptoms on a prescription.

Mr. STETLER. Well, I will comment on that briefly. Obviously, that is a big order. The point about how the doctor prescribes and the fact that it may seem complicated, is justified because of the fact that regardless of what Dr. Goddard said just a week ago, these variations do exist, and a doctor cannot safely write his prescriptions generically.

Now, that does not get to your economic question, I agree. But you have to start there. There is a serious problem there, and it cannot be solved.

The economic question cannot be solved just by generic prescribing. We are not at that stage yet. Whether we will get there, I don’t know.