

I am wondering if possibly the material in PDR could be made acceptable if in every instance it had to be FDA-approved language.

Senator NELSON. You are aware, of course, of Dr. Goddard's proposal which he has discussed casually a few times—once before this committee—that he would like to see the publication of a compendium financed by industry. And if you have a compendium, he would waive the requirement of the package insert which costs \$5 million a year; and then that \$5 million would be spent by the industry on the compendium.

His further comment was that he would like to see it done by PDR, because every doctor is familiar with it. The compendium should list all the drugs by their generic name, use, side effects, the contraindications, and then list the companies that manufacture the drug. All of this would be done with FDA approval.

This, I think, is a rough statement of his position.

And if publishing it and keeping it up to date regularly would cost \$5 million, as Dr. Goddard estimates, the industry would break even on the cost.

Mr. STETLER. Both of those figures, of course, are pure guesses.

Senator NELSON. Correct. I said "if he is correct, they would break even on the cost."

Mr. STETLER. Obviously, one point I think we should be interested in, and you, too, as a sponsor of a bill—What would the doctors want in the way of information on drugs? I think that is the main point—one concerning which we would like to hear more discussed.

Now, I don't think whether it is \$1 million, \$2 million, or \$5 million we would be interested in paying for a book if it is going to be a futile exercise and not of use to the doctor.

Senator NELSON. You say you want to know if the doctor is interested in such a compendium. These discussions started with Mr. Larrick two and a half years ago. Haven't you been able to find out in the last two and a half years what doctors might want?

Mr. STETLER. I happen to think that the doctors don't want this compendium. I realize you heard testimony last Thursday to the contrary. But let's hear from the doctors. I think they do not want this compendium. If they don't, I don't see why we should put up \$5 million to pay for a useless book.

Senator JAVITS. What about the millions of consumers that pay the bill?

Mr. STETLER. This book would not be for the consumer.

Senator JAVITS. Wouldn't it help the consumer in the sense that you have a group of doctors advancing through medicare and many other ways in which the Government pays doctors—which would have to use this book, and the way it should be used, on a competitive level?

In other words, if you don't prepare it at all, this thing will never get off the ground. I am considering, as you have heard, to join the Chair in a piece of legislation. Then we will have some hearings and find out what this is really all about.

Mr. STETLER. I happen to think that's exactly what you should do. I think there should be a bill introduced and I think there should be hearings, and everybody should be allowed—

Senator JAVITS. Good. And if the doctors have an objection, they should state it, and especially, why.