

I note a long list of very distinguished awards that you have received, as well as a long list of honorary degrees. This biography will be printed in the record.

I think everybody knowledgeable about medicine and health matters is familiar with your great and distinguished contribution to health and medicine in this country, and I suppose the contributions of which the public is most aware of are that you were the codeveloper of the blue baby operation, and that you are the one who alerted the medical profession in this country to the dangers of thalidomide.

The committee appreciates very much your taking the time to come here to make your contribution to the hearings which this committee has been conducting now for several months. I would ask you if it is satisfactory with you that you proceed to read your statement, and if you have no objection, from time to time I would like to interject some questions, so that you may develop in greater detail some of the points you have made. Thank you, Doctor.

STATEMENT OF DR. HELEN B. TAUSSIG, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF PEDIATRICS, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, BALTIMORE, MD.

Dr. TAUSSIG. Thank you, Senator Nelson. It is a pleasure to be here today, and I am glad to be of any help and service I can. You have already explained to the people here who I am, so I don't believe that I need to repeat that.

By way of introduction may I explain to you how I first heard about thalidomide. One of my former fellows, Dr. Alois Beuren of West Germany had studied with Dr. Bing and Dr. Andrus and then studied with me for a year in the days when Congress permitted postdoctoral trainee fellowships of the National Institutes of Health to be granted to foreign doctors. I emphasize this because although some foreign fellowships have been abused, some have brought us rich returns.

In a very real sense the same is true about trainee fellowships as is true of research fellowships. Just a small percentage of research really pays off but that which pays off, pays off so well with such high dividends that it justifies all the other money which goes into research. And I feel in a sense so it is in traineeships. Only a few pay off with high returns both to their own country and to ours.

The only difference between the two is, virtually every doctor is a better doctor for having had an additional period of training. So I think there is no lost money there.

Dr. Beuren's training brought rich returns in Germany and here. Thanks to an evening he spent at my house when he returned for a brief visit that I heard about thalidomide. That evening he told me that the doctors in West Germany were seeing a great number of children born with gross malformations of the extremities, little flippers instead of arms or legs, or no arms or no legs; and what was more, that Dr. Lenz thought the malformation was caused by a sleeping tablet.

I brought over with me some slides only hoping to remind you of how miserable the malformation is. Here is a picture of my reprints. I also have some pictures of these unfortunate children.