

Senator NELSON. What was the date that you went over to Germany to make your own investigation?

Dr. TAUSSIG. February 1962.

Senator NELSON. Had there been publicity in Germany about the adverse effects of the drug as of that time?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes, there had. I am coming to it again in my testimony, Senator. One of the striking things to me was that they had a serious epidemic. They had had very widespread publicity in Germany in November 1961, and scarcely a word of it reached our press over here.

Senator NELSON. In November of 1961 there was widespread publicity?

Dr. TAUSSIG. In Germany. Yes.

Senator NELSON. Specifically naming this drug as the probable cause?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes. This was 2 days after the drug was withdrawn from the market in Germany, and 4 days after it was publicly announced at a pediatric meeting. First Dr. Lenz announced that he suspected a specific drug and he didn't mention the name. A number of doctors that evening said to him, "Just confidentially, will you tell me was it Contergan"—as it was known in Germany—"I asked because we had such a child and my wife took such a drug."

And he said "Yes," and 2 days later at the meeting it was generally known that Contergan was suspected to cause the malformation. The drug was then withdrawn from the market, and the health department put on a tremendously wide newspaper, television, and radio publicity throughout Germany. It was barely picked up by the press over here.

Senator NELSON. Then it was November 1961 when there was widespread publicity in Germany?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes.

Senator NELSON. When did the first widespread publicity occur in this country? It was after your trip, I take it?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes, it was well after my trip. I suppose that really Mr. Morton Mintz' article had given widespread publicity to it in July. I had spoken at medical meetings when I came back, and it was known in the medical profession by then, and I testified in Congress in May. I don't think the entire country was inflamed until the summer.

Senator NELSON. And when was the article written by Mr. Morton Mintz printed in this country?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Mr. Mintz is right here and I can assure you, I have the date as July 15, 1962, in the Washington Post. Is that correct?

Senator NELSON. About July 15, 1962?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes.

Senator NELSON. This is almost nine months after the widespread publicity in Germany; is that correct?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes, that is right. Could I just read you a few dates here that I have?

Senator NELSON. Yes, go ahead.

Dr. TAUSSIG. My own investigation clinched the matter in my mind, and in Dr. Kelsey's mind. It is important to emphasize that the public ordinarily never hears about drugs which are not passed by the FDA. There isn't widespread publicity. It is just silently refused. Hence I