

think the country might not have realized the potential danger of drugs, had I not gone to Germany.

Now, this was in spite of the fact that 3,000 to 5,000 children were injured in West Germany. West Germany was wrought with anxiety and fear but we knew nothing about it.

As I told you, Dr. Lenz first announced that he thought that thalidomide might be the cause, and the drug was withdrawn from the market, and this was at the end of November 1961, and I was told that the publicity in Germany was tremendous. It was carried on the radio, the television, and the front page of virtually every newspaper in that country, and yet scarcely a word of it reached the American press.

Senator NELSON. What about the professional journals in this country? Were articles carried at that time?

Dr. TAUSSIG. At that time, no. Time magazine was the only journal that I know that picked it up; they sent a man over to investigate and published a brief column on "The Nightmare of a Sleeping Tablet." That was in February 1962. I know people read it but I don't think the true significance of it made any impression on them.

Senator NELSON. Do you have any explanation for the reason that the professional journals in this country didn't even carry articles about it?

Dr. TAUSSIG. No, I don't. I believe they didn't realize what was going on in West Germany. I think the first professional report was the one I gave to the American College of Physicians in April 1962. I did give a report at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and at the University of Maryland, when I first came back, immediately after my trip. I got back on the 1st of April, and I think it was about the 15th of April that I spoke in Philadelphia at the American College of Physicians, and that was carried in the press.

Senator NELSON. I take it, then, that even after the widespread publicity in Germany in 1961, the experimental clinical testing continued in this country for quite some time?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes. I believe application for the sale of the drug in this country was not withdrawn until April 1962.

Mr. GORDON. Was this before Mr. Mintz' article was printed or after the article?

Dr. TAUSSIG. I believe that the company had tried to withdraw the drug distributed for clinical trial, but not a very tremendous effort to recall the samples, before Mr. Mintz' article.

Senator NELSON. It was only being used in this country at that time in clinical tests?

Dr. TAUSSIG. In clinical tests, and I am sure no more was given out, but the percentage of recall was not great. It wasn't recalled in Canada until the middle of the summer. It wasn't recalled in other countries until after the outbreak of phocomelia had come to an end in Germany; that is, 8 months after the drug had been withdrawn and women had been warned not to take the drug.

Senator NELSON. I had thought that in the scientific community there was a fairly rapid exchange of information around the world on matters such as this. Is there any reason to account for this situation?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Well, as I say, I came back on the 1st of April. I talked to the American College of Physicians in the middle of April.