

I talked to the American Pediatric Society in the first week of May, and then I reported here to the Antitrust Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee on Food and Drug Regulations on May 24, 1962.

Senator NELSON. That was the Kefauver committee at that time?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes, that was the Kefauver committee or subcommittee. I must say when I first published or reported it, I was criticized by some of the people, saying that I was not a pharmacologist, I was a physiologist, and my response was I might not be either a physiologist or a pharmacologist, but if any of you had had a child with as severe malformation as that, you would be trying to prevent it happening here.

I don't think you had to be anything great but a humanitarian, perhaps, to be convinced of what was right in the situation. I published, or at least I sent in a short editorial, and was not very warmly received, and finally published my longer article on June 30, 1962, reporting my findings in Germany.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Taussig, which American company was seeking to market thalidomide in this country?

Dr. TAUSSIG. William S. Merrell.

Senator NELSON. I see. Now, a New Drug Application was apparently filed. Was it filed under the name of thalidomide or under a trade name of Kevadon?

Dr. TAUSSIG. I believe it was filed under the trade name of Kevadon. It was, and I believe is, so far as I know, in countries the accepted procedure, that if a product is produced by one pharmaceutical company, and they license another company to sell it, they give that company the permission to select their own name, and have an independent name, and that means that every company that makes a drug puts it out under a different name. This makes it extremely difficult to trace the drug.

Senator NELSON. Go ahead. Where are you, exactly?

Dr. TAUSSIG. I was saying that my scientific article was published on June 30, 1962, and I published one in the Scientific American in August 1962, but I do think it was Mr. Morton Mintz' article in the Washington Post in July 1962 that did more to inflame the country than any other single article, and I think that I can get the copy, I hoped to have a copy of his original article, to have it incorporated into the record.²

My purpose today is to reemphasize the danger that might lurk in drugs, and the difficulty that the lay people have in identifying drugs. As our drugs become more specific and more useful, they become more potent, and consequently there is greater danger of side effects.

Furthermore, the late side effects are the hardest of all to detect. For example, if you take a pill and you immediately develop hives or you shortly thereafter develop nausea or vomiting or diarrhea, you readily connect the reaction you are having with the drug you have taken. If so, you certainly not only don't want to take it again, you want to know the name of the drug, but you also want to know what other preparations contain the same substance.

In contrast to this, when you take a drug and everything is lovely afterwards, you take a sleeping tablet, and if you get the best sleep

² See supplemental information beginning at p. 1522, *infra*.