

into our country or if even they knew in our country it would have helped with the people who brought in the drug, had they known that the drug was thalidomide.

Senator NELSON. I notice you said in your article in the New England Journal and/or in your testimony that thalidomide was used in combination with a number of other drugs, and that these probably are sitting on somebody's shelves around the world now.

Dr. TAUSSIG. I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

Senator NELSON. And may still be used without any knowledge on the part of the individual that this dangerous drug thalidomide is in the preparation?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes.

Senator NELSON. I ask that this very fine article by Dr. Taussig be printed in the record at the conclusion of her testimony.⁴

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Taussig, I would like to clarify one point here. The chairman asked you in regard to the 50 infants, who were born with phocomelia in Brazil, whether some of these cases could have been avoided if the drug had been known by the generic name of thalidomide. I am not sure I understood the answer to his question.

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes. I think they definitely would, for the simple reason that a number of physicians, I don't say how many, but certainly the physicians that I talked with from South America were well aware that thalidomide was a dangerous drug, and that they were telling me that they were fortunate they did not have thalidomide in South America. Therefore, I think if they had known that they did have it, they would have warned people against taking it. But they didn't recognize that there was any relation to thalidomide in the drugs they had. The names on the labels meant nothing to them.

Senator NELSON. As a matter of fact, you note in your article in the New England Journal, on page 93, that the Brazilian magazine *Ocruzio* had investigated the problem and the magazine writer was told that thalidomide was not on sale in Brazil, when in fact it was on sale, under five different trade names.

Dr. TAUSSIG. Absolutely. I think if they had known that it was on sale, they would have taken action, and I am quite sure the health department acted extremely promptly there when they found it out, but it just escaped them entirely.

Mr. GORDON. Given the potent drugs which are now being developed, is it your judgment that this type of a situation could occur again?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes, it is. As I have said, I don't think we can get absolute safety, it can't be guaranteed for any new product or drug, but certainly major risks can be detected by careful testing.

I think we have to know to prevent as much as possible, and furthermore testing in primates was required to demonstrate clearly that thalidomide did produce phocomelia. It is a question whether every drug can be so tested, but nevertheless elementary precautions must be taken.

Drugs can and should be tested in a variety of animals and a variety of ages, for instance, for pregnant mothers, and the aged people who are known to react differently to different drugs.

Although a drug may be tested and tried for a specific disease in a specific age group, and recommended for such, if the drug is effective,

⁴ See supplemental information beginning at p. 1522, *infra*.