

Some drugs are chemicals which are manufactured by the ton. It seems doubtful that such drugs, for example, as aspirin, doriden or thalidomides vary in potency, but in these drugs competition keeps the price down.

Senator NELSON. The competition keeps the price down?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes.

On the other hand, potency can vary in the preparation of antibiotics, and probably in hormonal drugs and other synthetic preparations. Minor variations in manufacture may make a major difference. I believe in a very real sense the Food and Drug Administration can only demand certain standards.

Under most circumstances where standards are set, I think most persons or most manufacturers try to produce a superior product. It matters not whether it is minimal standards for a nursing home, for the care of laboratory animals or for drugs. By and large the persons involved in working with them try to do a superior job, especially when superiority brings profits.

It is highly desirable, and should be encouraged; therefore, together with the generic name the company's name should appear on the product.

The medical profession in turn should be encouraged to try the various products and try to determine which is most effective. There is no fear that the drug companies will not encourage them to try the various products. We need put no effort on that.

The doctors should know which preparation he is using, but above all he should know the various ingredients in the preparation he is giving. It is for that reason I firmly believe that the generic name of the drug or a simplified generic name should be on the name of the bottle as well as the manufacturer's name.

Senator HATFIELD. On the bottom of page 6, when you mention that the medical profession in turn should be encouraged to try the various products and try to determine which is most effective, are you speaking now within generic compounds and generic drugs?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. Or as between brand names or what?

Dr. TAUSSIG. I was speaking that if two companies produce products, for example, in antibiotics that are basically similar. There is variation in each. Of course, each drug firm is trying to produce the best one.

Senator HATFIELD. Yes.

Dr. TAUSSIG. That is true and we want them to try to produce it. There is no question about that. This is where we do get improvement in combination.

Senator HATFIELD. So there may be differences here even within a generic compound; is that right?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes; I believe so.

Senator HATFIELD. As to the efficacy and potency?

Dr. TAUSSIG. As to how it is finally produced. I think today we must meet basic minimum standards.

Senator HATFIELD. So in the competitive world of brand names of various manufacturers, there is this goal that they are seeking?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. To be better than their competitor?