

through the Peace Corps, through economic aid, and all these other things, and this kind of action is permitted?

Dr. TAUSSIG. And this kind of action comes in. Yes, I do. I think it is a very, very disgraceful thing.

Senator HATFIELD. It tends to undo all the other work we try to do.

Dr. TAUSSIG. The FDA undertakes—I believe the new drugs are regulated, but not the antibiotics, and technically I think that if the pharmaceutical firms say this drug is potent at the time they are selling it, and then take off the expiration date—they do not have to put on an expiration date—by the time the drug is shipped halfway around the world, and by the time it has been bought in quantity, and dispersed again it may be a good deal later.

The drug may have been potent at the time it left this country, but by the time it got distributed over there, it was no longer within the date.

Senator HATFIELD. Is there a way for the manufacturer to anticipate the time of use?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Well, all the antibiotics give you the date of expiration. Now the pharmaceutical firms will say, and I think it is true, that most of them are still potent quite a considerable period of time, but how long beyond is not known. The last thing the developing nations want is to get a drug which is not a potent drug, and no country likes to have it said "It is good enough for your country but it is not for ours. We do not know if it is potent, but you can use it."

Senator HATFIELD. According to your answer to the question of the chairman, we are in effect permitting the marketing of a lesser standard, lesser quality of drugs than we permit our own people in this country to use.

Dr. TAUSSIG. Yes, and that, I think, is wrong. And there is another point in that regard, that if you are considering legislation that I would like to bring to your attention, and it is the further problem, and I do not think it is in the least an insurmountable problem, that there are some pharmaceutical companies, and naturally we are in the group manufacturing and exporting, that manufacture some drugs for export that are not used in their own country, so that you do not have the same standard of quality control.

Sir George Godber of England expressed the opinion that for drugs which were manufactured but not used in the producing country, it would be possible to use standards that were used in another country that did both produce and use the drugs. And something to that effect or that some other regulations should come in is quite important.

For example, we have very little leprosy, it is practically unknown here. The parasitic infections are a tremendous problem in many of the other countries of the world but scarcely one of concern to us. Nevertheless our drug companies are interested.

Schistomiasis is a widely prevalent parasitic infection that is found in contaminated water and the drug firms are making a tremendous effort to find and sell some beneficial drug. The best product I was told has been developed by Ciba, which is partly a Swiss company, and of course we do not control that, it is a drug which is taken by mouth. It has been effective. They had a clinical trial in Africa, and they said this is a fine drug.