

Two points must be clearly held in mind. I went to Germany because I realized that if true, the phenomenon had wide and serious implications. Nevertheless, Dr. Frances Kelsey in the Food and Drug Administration was the person who refused to release thalidomide for sale in this country. She saved this country from untold tragedy. My investigation not only clinched the matter in her mind but ordinarily the public never hears of the drugs which are *not* passed by the Food and Drug Administration; hence this country might never have realized the potential danger in drugs had I not gone to Germany. In spite of the fact that three to five thousand children were injured in West Germany and the country was wrought with anxiety and fear, we knew nothing of it. When Dr. Lenz first announced that he thought that thalidomide might be the cause and the drug was withdrawn from the market, I am told the publicity in West Germany was tremendous. News was carried on radio, television and the front page of virtually every newspaper in the country and yet the news scarcely reached the American press. Certainly our country was not disturbed. Time magazine picked it up, sent a man over to investigate and published one brief column on "the nightmare of a sleeping tablet." (February, 1962). Some persons read the report but the true significance was not appreciated at that time. After my trip to West Germany, I reported my findings to the American College of Physicians in April, 1962 and to the American Pediatric Society in May, 1962, and on May 24, 1962, I testified before the Antitrust Sub-Committee of the Judiciary Committee on H.R. 6245. The Journal of the American Medical Association, issue of June 30, 1962, carried my first medical article on the subject and the Scientific American published my lay article in August, 1962. Nevertheless, Morton Mintz' article in the Washington Post, on July 15, 1962, did more to inflame the country than any other single article. I have a copy of his article; will you kindly incorporate it into the record at the appropriate place?

The major purpose of my testimony today is to re-emphasize the danger that may lurk in drugs and the difficulty which the lay public has in identifying a drug.

As drugs become more specific and thus more useful, they become more potent and consequently the danger of side-effects increases. Furthermore, the late side-effects are the hardest of all to detect. If you take a pill and you immediately develop hives or you shortly thereafter develop nausea and vomiting, or diarrhea, you readily connect the reaction with the drug. If so, you certainly want *not only* to know the name of the drug but also what other preparations contain the same substance. In contrast to this, when you take a drug and everything is lovely afterwards, as with a sleeping tablet and you've slept well and awake refreshed, it is fine. You may well like to know what you have taken. Nevertheless, that particular pill satisfies you. As long as you can purchase it, all is well and good. Moreover, if you get the relief you need you care little about the price (a point to which I shall return).

You continue to take the drug and other drugs too, and after a year or two you develop polyneuritis, that is, numbness and tingling in your hands and feet. You cannot sleep and you take more sleeping tablets, and you take the best sleeping tablets you have ever had, namely, the same one you took a year or so ago. It is a long time before you or your doctor realize that the nervous trouble you are suffering from is caused by the long continued use of that sleeping tablet. Then the problem arises to know what other medicines contain that ingredient. Sleep brings relief to many ills. A great many conditions, perhaps the majority of illnesses, are helped by sleep. Thus, if you have a headache or arthritis, a pill which relieves the pain, and when combined with one which will give you sleep, is very beneficial. The same is true of a gastro-intestinal upset, of an asthmatic attack or a migraine headache. Alas, even the morning nausea of early pregnancy is relieved by a tranquilizer. Most sleeping tablets given in small doses act as tranquilizers. Hence, thalidomide was combined with many other drugs and each combination was given a new name! The drug was so good that the pharmaceutical rights for manufacture were sold to drug firms in many other countries and the accepted practice is that each firm which manufactures the drug has permission to use a brand name of its own choosing. So when the danger of thalidomide was recognized it was found that the drug was masquerading under at least 50, if not 100 or more, different names. Appendix I gives a list of names which I have verified as containing thalidomide. I was told by one of the leading European pediatricians that the list is far from complete.

Incredible though it initially seemed, it became evident that one pill of 50 mgm. which was less than one-half of what had been considered full strength and