Dr. WHITNEY. I would not be here today if I were not able to get these antibiotics at $4.50 a couple of days ago, which made it possible for me to come down here.

Mr. GROSSMAN. You say you think these company prices are reasonable. You did not have any choice. You go in and pay a couple of dollars, and that is it. I just cannot believe that any serious man would come here and say that to this committee.

Dr. WHITNEY. Try to open your mind and listen to my case. I had, 2 or 3 days ago, the question of bowing out to keep from testifying. I would normally let my virus run its course. But in view of the presence of antibiotics, I made a deliberate choice to spend $4.50 to come down here. What is so unreasonable about that? I made a deliberate choice.

Mr. GROSSMAN. Frankly, I think your example is not the norm. I think most people do not have the choice. They just go in and get a prescription; the doctor makes the choice for them.

You said if a $5 prescription or six of them will keep a patient from losing a day's pay, the price is reasonable. You are just throwing this open, right. In other words, there is no limitation as far as you are concerned; the price is always reasonable?

Dr. WHITNEY. Oh, no.

Mr. GROSSMAN. Oh, no?

Dr. WHITNEY. If a person were given $100 worth of antibiotics——

Mr. GROSSMAN. How is he to know?

Dr. WHITNEY. If he were forced to pay $100 in order to save himself a day's work and a day's work would pay him $20 a day, it would be better to lose the day's work. You measure what you get.

Mr. GROSSMAN. I just do not think the buyer has that much choice. I think you are giving him a better position in the marketplace than he really has.

Dr. WHITNEY. Do you think the buyer is being overcharged for his product if it keeps him out of a one-night stay in a hospital?

Mr. GROSSMAN. I think if it is reasonably produced and a reasonable profit could be elicited for $1 and the product costs $2, he is being overcharged.

Dr. WHITNEY. What is your standard for a reasonable profit?

Mr. GROSSMAN. I do not think you and I agree on any social responsibility the manufacturer has. I think you are more concerned with the investor. I understand your argument on——

Dr. WHITNEY. I am afraid you do not understand it.

Mr. GROSSMAN. I understand your argument is the consumer is benefited by the high prices because the industry has more money for research and all this.

Dr. WHITNEY. You see it.

Mr. GROSSMAN. I see what you are saying, but I think we have to bear a lot to go as far as you do. I do not think we have to bear it. I think the statement here takes us way beyond anything I could reasonably accept.

Dr. WHITNEY. It is mainly true.

Mr. GROSSMAN. In other words, I am just going to set here and wait for the industry to decide what they are going to charge.

Dr. WHITNEY. Shall I go ahead, or shall I go on arguing about this?