

Mr. GORDON. When was the National Research Council report written?

Dr. LUECK. 1961.

Mr. GORDON. That was how many years ago?

Dr. LUECK. The California report suggests that the occurrence of I think aplastic anemia may be one in 24,000 to one in 40,000, and we are not going to argue with that figure.

Mr. GORDON. They also give the figure: one in 24,200.

Dr. LUECK. That is what I thought I was trying to quote. I am trying to quote from memory now, Mr. Gordon. I thought they quoted one to 24,000 or 40,000.

Mr. GORDON. Now, I want to get your answer absolutely clear in my mind. You say that we do not know any more today about the side effects and risks involved in the use of chloramphenicol than we did 12 or 13 years ago?

Dr. LUECK. Mr. Gordon, in my opinion, we do not.

Mr. GORDON. Thank you, very much.

Dr. LUECK. But I am not a medical person and I am not qualified in all of these areas, obviously. I am qualified, however, to read a report which is published on the drug, so that is what I am doing.

Senator NELSON. So the record might be clear on that point, is there anyone here who is qualified to answer that question, one of the doctors? Do we know any more today about the side effects than we did 10 years ago?

Dr. SCHEELE. I am president of Warner-Lambert Research Institute.

We know more in the sense that there has been a longer experience. However, no new side effects have developed in the course of time. We know no more about this phenomenon which is in the patient who reacts to this particular drug, or even the sensitivity phenomenon that occurs in people who become sensitive to penicillin and have severe reactions and of even deaths. In a sense, we do not know any more. There has been a lot of experience. I do not think there has been any medical data that has turned up that suggests that the population at large has within it more susceptibility of having this idiosyncrasy which leads them under treatment by this drug to develop aplastic anemia.

Mr. GORDON. You knew that 8 or 10 years ago?

Dr. SCHEELE. Yes. It was not known in the beginning. It was learned after the product was marketed. It continues. But I doubt that the incidence is higher now in the population—that is, the potential of this is any higher now than it was then.