

proper indications for the drug or has made a mistake. Would it be worth while to have some kind of control that would not be too cumbersome, but that still would control overprescription?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Well, Senator, I think you are absolutely right. I have come to the reluctant conclusion in the last few years that some type of restriction is essential in the use of this drug. How that restriction is going to take place or should take place, I am not sure. Certainly, physicians do not object to a registration number for the prescription of narcotics and, when they write morphine sulphate, they have to put their registration number down and they have to write out who it is being supplied for, and so on. The druggist then knows that this is a special type of prescription and he will not give it out for anything but a well-defined cause. He knows that. So there is restriction already in the medical profession with respect to certain drugs and I can see myself that this idea of a special registry for special drugs which have an undue proportion of serious reactions, I can see that such a registry could be begun and utilized. Exactly how, I do not know, either.

Senator NELSON. Do the doctors find any particular difficulty in complying with the regulations applicable to the prescription of morphine or any other narcotic? Is it a particularly cumbersome procedure for them to have to follow?

Dr. DAMESHEK. No. I do not think so. Once a year one has to make out a check for \$1 to the U.S. Government on a blank furnished by the Government with respect to narcotics, and one has to put down on a prescription your registration number and the name and address of the patient and your own name and address. That is about it. And that is not much of a restriction, I do not think.

Senator NELSON. Would you have any guess as to how many drugs ought to be in such a special category? You include chloramphenicol as one of those special drugs. Do you have any idea of what we are talking about in terms of numbers—half a dozen, a dozen—or any notion about which drugs you would include?

Dr. DAMESHEK. I would think there might be half a dozen to 10 drugs or so that might come in this category.

Senator NELSON. If the procedure followed with respect to certain other drugs like morphine is effective, why would not it be feasible, after appropriate consultation with members of the medical profession and the FDA, to agree that there are a half dozen or more drugs which ought to be used with special caution and, therefore, they would be handled in the same way that morphine is handled? Would that be feasible, in your judgment?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Well, I think there is something good that might be said about this. I personally do not think it would restrict anyone's individual liberty to do this sort of thing and I think it might be distinctly valuable.

Senator NELSON. Would it have in your judgment, the effect of putting a doctor on notice that the prescription of such a drug has been considered a serious enough matter so that there is a special requirement with respect to this drug? Is it your judgment that he would then be alerted to examine the literature carefully, if he had not al-