

machinery is there. We have public health laws that require reporting of certain diseases and we have very definite controls on narcotics which have been very effective over a long span of years now, so that there is machinery there that we can utilize, but I think a study like this should not be directed at just one drug. I think we ought to look at the whole spectrum of drugs and separate the experimental drugs from the drugs which are proven therapeutically and have no toxic effects and then put ones like Chloromycetin in the center and control its use this way. I would not want to discriminate against Chloromycetin.

Senator NELSON. I was not suggesting that. I take it that you would suggest that some kind of a mechanism be established to control the drug. For example, a distinguished panel of experts from the medical profession would be formed to study the problem, and would make a recommendation to the FDA or some other appropriate place, that this drug should be in a special category to limit its administration in one fashion or another. Is that the kind of thing you are talking about?

Dr. WESTON. Yes, sir. Positively.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Dr. WESTON. It is recognized that considerable pressure may be brought to bear by numerous economics groups, including not only the manufacturer, but the dispenser, when a commodity with gross national sales of the magnitude of this agent is curbed to this degree. It should also be recognized in any legislation that extensive research is currently being conducted within the facilities of the manufacturer, Parke, Davis, to develop an agent capable of protecting the body against deleterious effects of this drug such as has been shown to occur in protecting the eye from untoward effects in a limited number of cases. With virtually every State in the Nation requiring reporting of certain diseases and conditions to public health or other authorities and such stringent control carefully exercised on the use of addicting and now dangerous drugs, it would appear that the machinery is available for effective control of other toxic drugs such as Chloromycetin. It remains to devise the legislation necessary and the method of implementation within these agencies.

Senator NELSON. The day before yesterday, in the testimony of some of the witnesses, the question was raised as to the reporting of side effects from this or any other drug. Would you think it would be valuable to the profession and to the public if hospitals, for example, were required to report to some central place—the FDA might be one or the AMA might be another—the information they accumulate each year about side effects of drugs used in that hospital? I am not saying that you would report all side effects, but side effects that were of significance and information about which would contribute to the body of medical knowledge. Would you consider that a useful, valuable thing to do?

Dr. WESTON. No, sir.

Senator NELSON. You would not?

Dr. WESTON. No, sir. It is much the same as the battered-child legislation. We went to a great deal of trouble to get battered-child