

as well as serious conditions where other equally effective drugs were available.

The testimony before this committee and the accumulated evidence of the past few years raise important public policy questions:

Who is responsible for the widespread overprescribing of this drug?

What accounts for the dramatic communications gap between the medical specialists who for 15 years have known and written about this drug and those who have continued to prescribe it for cases where it should not be used?

What responsibility has the AMA assumed in notifying the medical profession about the proper use of this drug? And how effective have they been?

Has the FDA effectively warned the profession and controlled the advertising of this drug? If not—as seems to be the case—why not?

Is this not a dramatic example of the compelling effectiveness of advertising even on a sophisticated audience in its own area of expertise?

These, certainly, are questions which deserve careful attention and will get it from this committee.

Since the hearings, the subcommittee staff and I have received letters and calls describing tragic cases of serious illness and death resulting from the unnecessary use of chloramphenicol. These letters speak for themselves. They will be printed in the record. Ironically and sadly one of our telephone calls was from an employee in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare who lost his son because he was given Chloromycetin for an infected toe.

I shall have printed in the record at the conclusion of my statement the letters and communications that the committee, subcommittee or I have received. We have as carefully as possible deleted the identification of any of the parties as well as the cities, unless they happen to be a particularly large city, simply because it is not the purpose of the committee to single out any particular case that comes to its attention since these only represent a small sampling of the total number of cases across the country.

These letters will be printed and included as part of the record.

(The letters referred to follow:)

COLORADO, *February 20, 1968.*

HON. GAYLORD NELSON,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: In the February 16 issue of *Time* magazine, I learned of your chairmanship of the Senate Monopoly Subcommittee. With reference to the article regarding Chloromycetin, our family would like to state our interest in this antibiotic.

In June, 1966, our then 19-year-old daughter went to ——— Michigan, to work at a summer camp. She had just completed her sophomore year at Colorado State University. Upon arrival in ——— she had a sore throat and was referred