

I am naturally upset and bitter about your stand on the unlimited dispensing of this lethal drug, and am, therefore, writing to ask you to please help someone else avoid the horrible tragedy of losing a young child because of lack of information, disregard of warnings on labels and indiscriminate prescribing.

It seems so ridiculous to have to plead with a doctor to help save lives.

Very truly yours,

NAME WITHHELD.

ATTORNEY AT LAW,
New Mexico, February 16, 1968.

HON. GAYLORD NELSON,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Publicity on your excellent work in exposing the laxity of the drug industry in protecting the public from the latent dangers of antibiotics have filtered even out into my corner of New Mexico.

You have conducted hearings within the past two weeks in which Chloromycetin a Parke Davis product was the focal point. I would appreciate very much your assistance in helping me obtain copies of the testimony before your committee concerning Chloromycetin. I am representing a rancher's family whose 16 year old daughter was prescribed a strong dosage for tonsillitis and then a refill after she had apparently recovered. The child died an excruciatingly painful death from aplastic anemia which developed as a result of her susceptibility to the drug.

My investigation in the matter has left me with the opinion that there must be many such cases which have never been accurately diagnosed. My concern, however, is for my client and in order to have optimum understanding of this problem I would like to have a record of your recent investigation and will appreciate your office's help in obtaining it. Needless to say I shall pay the customary charges for such publication as it come from the Superintendent of Documents.

Yours very truly,

NAME WITHHELD.

OREGON, February 16, 1968.

HON. GAYLORD NELSON,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON: I have read with interest in the Drew Pearson column and Time Magazine of your efforts to control the drug chloromycetin. I want to personally thank you and encourage you in your efforts.

The reports indicate that only a few hundred people have died as a result of this drug. Something is wrong with the reporting. I lost a little boy at the age of seven, sixteen years ago, because a doctor gave him chloromycetin for a mild cold. There was no warning to the doctor and I could not blame him because he had accepted some of the information in the Parke Davis advertising which was, to say the least, misleading. At the same time my son was in the hospital dying, three more children died in that same hospital within a two-month period. I have personally known several adults who, as a result of chloromycetin given by doctors for colds, influenza and the like, developed aplastic anemia and died.

I didn't sue Parke Davis because no amount of money would have repaid me for the loss of my son. However, I think I made a mistake, and if all of us who have been affected by this drug would have sued Parke Davis and pursued the matter further, perhaps it would have been corrected by this time.

I encourage you to continue your efforts and investigate the use and controls of this drug. I am fully aware that in some instances it can be life-saving, but its indiscriminate and wide use for minor ills has resulted in the loss of the lives of many people.

Every few years some congressman complain about the loose way in which Parke Davis is handling the drug and a few newspaper articles appear. The death rate goes down, and soon afterwards the whole thing starts over again and the death rate increases.

Again let me congratulate you on your efforts to correct the misuse of this drug. I hope you will be successful in bringing it under control.

Sincerely,

NAME WITHHELD.