

I have enclosed a picture of our small son, ———. We lost him five years ago at age six because our Doctor, one of the finest in ———, prescribed chloromycetin every time he had a cold and never over a three year period took a blood test.

I won't go into detail about the last terrible six months of our child's life but if you have the power to save one child the suffering that he endured, and parents the terrible loss that we have had, you should move swiftly to do so.

We place our faith in Doctors and when they prescribe medicine for our loved ones we take their advice. If some Doctors will not heed the warning about the dangers involved with a drug, it would be far better to remove it from the market. I was told (too late) that this had been done with chloromycetin for a few years because of its danger but was made available again. With that knowledge, a very fine Doctor prescribed it and made no effort to follow up on the results.

Since this is a subject I feel so strongly about, I will be waiting to see what your committee can do to see that things like this do not continue to occur.

I feel that this is not as uncommon as you may think since the hematologist that was called in to diagnose asked immediately if my child had been given any antibiotics. We also sent a case history to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and received a call to bring him down and they would do what they could—on the day that he died.

Sincerely yours,

NAME WITHHELD.

WISCONSIN, February 12, 1968.

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

MY DEAR SENATOR NELSON: Earlier today, we heard a news broadcast in which you were quoted citing the potential danger of a drug called Chloromycetin. Both my wife and I were shocked beyond words.

Allow me to explain. Several weeks ago, our youngest daughter (age 10 years) was confined to the hospital with a suspected virus attack. It appeared to become localized in the upper right abdomen. After numerous tests, the doctor prescribed the use of Chloromycetin. Instead of improving, she became much worse—becoming very weak and pale. On two occasions, she fainted—something that never occurred before. After several days of this, we transferred her to a more specialized hospital ———. She underwent countless tests there without the doctors arriving at a diagnosis. After eight days, we brought her home.

What worries us is the fact she never completely recovered after being administered this drug. As I write this now, she is home in bed—having suffered another weak, fainting spell this morning.

We need your help. Specifically, please verify the symptoms your committee attributed as serious side effects. In addition, please advise if there is a known remedy to counteract the side effects.

Very truly yours,

NAME WITHHELD.

BROOKLYN, N.Y., February 8, 1968.

HON. EVERETT DIRKSEN,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Although I am not a member of your immediate constituency in Illinois, I feel you are a concerned and learned representative of the greater constituency, the citizens of the United States. I, therefore, again seek your help.

I must bring this to someone's attention. This, to me, is unbelievable complacency and neglect on the part of either the F.D.A., the A.M.A., the doctors, drug manufacturers or who knows.

This past Christmas, our ten-year-old niece died from aplastic anemia (a blood disease related to leukemia). Her six-month-old long-illness was definitely attributed to the administering by a physician of chloromycetin for a previous cold or flu. After going through the months of suffering with these parents, I could hardly believe my eyes when reading this small article attached, tucked away in the back pages of the Daily News (N.Y.)—especially the sentence stating that