

Senator LONG. May I ask if that is Washington, D.C., or the State of Washington?

Mr. ELFSTROM. The State of Washington.

My grandson, a boy of sixteen, was ill and we called in a man who was said to be one of the leading specialists in the country. This doctor prescribed Chloromycetin for the boy and it killed him—from the associate publisher of a group of prominent daily newspapers.

My daughter, Pamela, passed away due to the Chloromycetin she was given. Only people like you and I know what we have all gone through. We all appreciate what you are doing. Maybe all of us in some small way can contribute to the ban of this terrible drug—from a Colorado mother.

Barbara was a beautiful, chubby little girl with a head of blonde curls and blue eyes. She was the picture of health. We know nothing but that this awful drug took her life—from a New York mother.

My two and a half year old daughter, Elizabeth, died August 17 of aplastic anemia. The previous September she had been administered Chloromycetin by a pediatrician who had attended the child since birth, for a sore thumb, two months later for a cold, and two times more for a sty, never taking a blood count. I have lost all interest in everything. I can not speak about what my baby went through, all in vain, but I want you to know there is someone who knows how you feel about your loss and understands—from a Long Island mother.

My daughter Isabel died on August 14 of aplastic anemia, caused by Chloromycetin prescribed for an ordinary cold on two occasions within a year—from a New Jersey father.

I have wanted so often to write and thank you but my daughter's death (a 35-year-old government scientist) incidentally, she was from Washington here, although she died in California—came as such a shock that my health has not been good—from a California mother.

Other letters tell of the death of a 21-year-old college football player who was given Chloromycetin for acne, of a Navy Wave who was given the drug in a naval hospital, of a Massachusetts father who was given more than 50 blood transfusions in the veteran's hospital following the onset of aplastic anemia caused by the drug.

We have heard from physicians, too, who have had tragedies in their immediate families, such as this one from a doctor in Texas:

In February my seven and a half year old son died from aplastic anemia due in the opinion of five specialists, including the State's outstanding hematologist, who attended him, to the routine administration and dosage of Parke, Davis' Chloromycetin by me for an ear-throat infection on the advice of representatives of Parke, Davis who repeatedly assured me of its safety, and urged its use, routinely, in general practice. Almost simultaneously there were two other deaths in this area, a child and an adult which appear to be attributable to the same cause.

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt a moment? This is a letter from a physician in Texas who administered the drug himself?

Mr. ELFSTROM. Yes. Incidentally, I have a copy of his letter to me.

Senator NELSON. What is the date of his letter?

Mr. ELFSTROM. 1961.

Senator NELSON. 1961. This is some 9 years or thereabouts after the serious side effects of this drug were known to the company and to the medical profession; is that correct?

Mr. ELFSTROM. That is right. Dr. Watkins can tell you about that. I will find the letter in my file and give it to you.

Also, let me interject here that it seems that the younger the person the quicker the reaction follows. An older person usually hangs on for quite a while with the anemia. I have records of a case in Detroit where more than 200 blood transfusions were given to this man before he passed away, and of a woman down in Miami, Fla., who was given more than 180 blood transfusions before she passed away. But the younger the person, the quicker the reaction.