

requesting the State department of public health to make continuing studies of the relationship of Chloromycetin to the development of aplastic anemia.

These studies by the department of public health, the only ones so far made anywhere in the world to our knowledge have revealed that instead of the incidence of aplastic anemia following Chloromycetin from one in 800,000 as was introduced in evidence in a lawsuit here in Washington, to one in 36,118 with an average dose of 4.5 grams, or one in 21,671 with an average dose of 7.5 grams per person.

When we first started working on the problem we tried to seek some cooperation from the Food and Drug Administration. But we just wasted our time. In fact, in one of his many communications to us, the then Commissioner, George P. Larrick, brushed us off with the statement:

I am convinced, based on the views of FDA's medical staff and eminent medical authorities who are experts in the field of antibiotic use, that Chloromycetin is a valuable drug which saves more lives than it destroys.

Senator NELSON. When was that statement made by Mr. Larrick?

Mr. ELFSTROM. In a letter to me, sir.

Senator NELSON. What year?

Mr. ELFSTROM. 1962 or 1963, I have forgotten which, but I have a copy of the letter. Can you imagine this coming from the head of the FDA? Knowing what we did about the many tragedies that followed the indiscriminate use of this drug, this statement we considered an insult to our intelligence.

We did not fare any better with the Medical Director of the FDA, Dr. Joseph F. Sadusk, Jr., who, we observe, subsequently has been appointed a vice president of Parke, Davis. Strange bedfellows.

We understand this man tabled a suggestion made by his deputy to reopen the question of Chloromycetin labeling in 1966.

Senator LONG. Let me see if I get this straight. Do I understand that Dr. Joseph F. Sadusk, Jr., was a Medical Director of the Food and Drug Administration, and supported Parke, Davis in their conduct, and that he subsequently became the vice president of Parke, Davis?

Mr. ELFSTROM. That is right, sir.

Senator LONG. So he helped them with this activity and then took a job from them?

Mr. ELFSTROM. Draw your own conclusions.

Senator LONG. I would say that this was very effective public relations work on their part.

Mr. ELFSTROM. Dr. Watkins has some other information that you will find helpful.

We are happy to acknowledge, however, that the present Commissioner, Dr. James L. Goddard, and the current Director of the Bureau of Medicine of the FDA, Dr. Herbert L. Ley, have been cooperative and seem to be trying to find a solution to the problem.

We know organized medicine will vigorously oppose any change, insisting that its prerogative to prescribe for its patients—a captive audience in every sense of the word—should not be interfered with. But how it can stubbornly insist on no restrictions in the face of evidence that has been piling up for years now of the continued indiscriminate use of this antibiotic is beyond comprehension.

We don't know how many times we have heard the statement made