

drug. This tragedy has been repeated time and time again, and will continue as long as the drug is not restricted in its use.

Would any of you gentlemen take the drug? Is there any doubt that if your doctor examined you in his office and said you needed an antibiotic, do you think you might just look at the prescription and ask your doctor friend what antibiotic he is giving you? The public deserves the same consideration and protection you, knowingly now, can afford yourself.

Senator NELSON. Thank you, Doctor.

Dr. WATKINS. I have one other letter here. This is from Dr. Wintrobe, who is, I think, head of hematology; he is a very well-known professor at Salt Lake City. This letter was written—I think it is the month of my tragedy; I wrote my letter on May 5.

Senator NELSON. What year?

Dr. WATKINS. 1952. And he had had correspondence at this time with Parke, Davis. He told them of the toxicity of this drug. I have another letter from a doctor—we were trying to inquire from someone that we had heard had died in Michigan. And here the doctor writes me and says he could not find out any information. He says the reason is the family is in a bad mental state, and he thinks if he inquires into this that it might upset them more.

That is what I heard all the way across the country. It was either God's will or he didn't want to upset the family any more.

Here is a letter written in 1953 from a M. D. Levin, Baltimore, Md. He says he thinks it is a dangerous drug. And he says, "My personal experience not only supports your statements"—he is writing this to a doctor who had written about it being harmful—"but I would confront them with the statement that I personally warned the manufacturer relative to this synthetic product quite a while ago."

This was in 1953, in September. They had adequate information.

And again I want to tell you how I appreciate the opportunity to come before you. And I feel that if something can be accomplished by this, that my son, Dr. Farman's daughter, Mr. Elfstrom's daughter, and probably hundreds of thousands of others probably will not have died in vain.

Senator NELSON. Counsel advises me that the figure I gave of \$45 million in sales in 1966 were wholesale figures, so that it would be a higher amount on the retail level.

Dr. WATKINS. There is a little profit on it.

Senator LONG. I would like to question you about what you are saying here; that is, that assuming that this drug will kill, the number of deaths are far greater than anyone in this room knows. We lawyers used to joke about it. You take out title insurance. You think someone has good title to a piece of property he is selling, but we insure ourselves against our error, so that the insurance company will make good the loss in the event we make an error.

Lawyers always joke about it, saying that doctors have an advantage over lawyers; doctors can bury their mistakes—and they frequently do.

Now, in this particular case, just from my own practical experience, I know that doctors are very reluctant to admit they made a mistake.

Dr. WATKINS. Yes, very.