

I think I should say for Senator Long's benefit that the company does concede that in a certain number of cases, say, rarely, various blood dyscrasias do occur, including aplastic anemia. And they include that information, as they have been required to do since 1962, on the package insert, in their precautionary statement.

I think one of the problems is that despite the precautionary statement, a substantial number of the medical profession still continue to prescribe Chloromycetin for minor infections such as head colds and acne, and so forth and so on, whereas it should only be prescribed, according to the medical testimony we have heard, for typhoid fever and other groups of infections in which the disease is very serious, and for which there is no other antibiotic that will effectively do the job.

The tragedy is that it is being prescribed for all kinds of cases in which it is not indicated. But the company does not deny that.

Senator LONG. They have a patent, and they want to make a big profit every time it is used. And they get about 50 times what it costs them to manufacture it.

Dr. WATKINS. Here is a brochure that came out, I think, in 1959, from the company, and right down here at the bottom it says "This is using it on dogs"—"Anemia developed in various degrees in these animals."

And this is 1959.

Senator NELSON. What is the pamphlet?

Dr. WATKINS. It is Chloromycetin from Parke, Davis. They knew about it in dogs in 1959. Our tragedy was in 1952. His tragedy was in 1960.

Mr. ELFSTROM. I think in the testimony before Senator Kefauver's committee, which I followed very closely, there was evidence introduced that a Dr. Radomski, who was with the Food and Drug Administration at the time, had made a study of the drug on dogs, and had found some fatal effects from anemia. I think Dr. Radomski is now down at the University of Miami.

Senator NELSON. I think that is conceded scientifically.

One of the facts that we do not know is the precise incidence of blood dyscrasias, aplastic anemia, and so forth, because there has not been any really accurate statistical compilation. The statistics have always been guesses. As Dr. Watkins testified, it was once claimed that aplastic anemia would occur only once in 400,000 cases, and once in 200,000 cases, but there has not been a very scientific compilation of the statistics.

So I think it is conceded by the experts at least that these are all simply guesses. Is that not correct, Dr. Watkins?

Dr. WATKINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELFSTROM. In California, the department there states they can conservatively estimate the incidence as 1 in 21,000.

Senator NELSON. Of aplastic anemia? Are either of you doctors aware of evidence of other serious blood dyscrasias which aren't included in the statistics on aplastic anemia? In other words, are there other problems, other illnesses that occur as a consequence of this drug that do not result in aplastic anemia?

Dr. WATKINS. This has all evolved very slowly. You would not believe the difficulty we had in the early days of trying to prove it,