

Senator NELSON. We will now hear from Dr. Franklin Farman, from Lakewood, Calif.

Doctor, we appreciate your being here today.

STATEMENT OF DR. FRANKLIN FARMAN, LAKEWOOD, CALIF.

Dr. FARMAN. I wish to thank you, Senator Nelson, and Mr. Benjamin Gordon, for inviting me to the hearing. It is a very great privilege and we hope we will be of some aid to the committee.

I have a statement here that might fill in the background of this problem, as an introduction.

I am a specialist in urology, and I belong to the American Medical and the California Medical Associations, and the American Urological Association, and the American College of Surgeons.

I wish to relate our experience with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the American Medical Association, and Parke, Davis & Co., and to point out some of the reasons why chloramphenicol should be restricted in its manufacture and use.

In June 1952, we lost our daughter—5 years old—through the administration of Chloromycetin—trade name—manufactured by Parke, Davis & Co. Her death was one of many similar cases of blood dyscrasias induced by the use of Chloromycetin which have continued to occur in the United States up to the present day.

I quote from Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, former Mayo Clinic clinician.

Mr. Elfstrom also quoted from Dr. Alvarez. I wish to quote Dr. Alvarez, formerly of the Mayo Clinic, again.

He stated in the Lincoln, Nebr. Evening Journal of November 24, 1952:

The journal of the American Medical Association has had three articles telling of nine such deaths, due apparently to the taking of chloramphenicol. For these nine cases which are reported, there may well be hundreds more that were not reported.

Senator NELSON. In the case of your child, had you received any warning?

Dr. FARMAN. Not personally. She was treated by our pediatrician.

Senator NELSON. What was the nature of her problem?

Dr. FARMAN. She had an upper respiratory infection.

Senator NELSON. Am I correct that the drug is not indicated as a drug of choice for respiratory ailments?

Dr. FARMAN. It is not now, but in 1952 it was highly advertised for that. I will go into that later.

Senator NELSON. Go ahead.

Dr. FARMAN. This is true, even today—many cases of anemia and severe blood dyscrasia following the administration of Chloromycetin are not recognized or reported.

In June 1952 Mrs. Farman and I called personally upon the president of Parke, Davis & Co.—Mr. Harry Loynd—and asked him to remove Chloromycetin from the market.

Senator NELSON. You asked him to remove the drug from the market?

Dr. FARMAN. Yes. We were right in his office, and we asked him to remove it from the market, and stated the reasons why. This he refused to do although it had been proven that Parke, Davis & Co. had been warned by various physicians that Chloromycetin was a toxic dangerous drug.