

Senator NELSON. Thank you, doctor. You also suggest, as other doctors testified here have, that the drug should be administered only in a hospital; do I understand you correctly?

Dr. FARMAN. Yes. A drug of this type—it is a toxic chemical, but there might be a few cases in hospitals where under proper supervision it could be administered safely. The trouble is, it is prescribed—the average general practitioner in the United States is too busy to be properly informed. They listen to the detail men, and they also read the drug ads. And so so they prescribe anything that is advertised to them.

But I feel that we are here—that is one purpose of our trip here, to get the FDA, or possibly Congress, to begin to pass legislation which is going to help the country.

Senator NELSON. It has been suggested in previous testimony here that there are various methods which could be used. One of the suggestions that was proposed is that perhaps the FDA could be authorized in consultation with the medical profession to designate certain very toxic drugs such as Chloromycetin as a special category of drugs, and determine the procedures under which they could be administered; that is, they may list whatever drugs are considered to be very dangerous such as Chloromycetin, and simply require that they be administered only in a hospital—or, as other testimony has been given, that you require that some of these drugs be handled in the same way that morphine is, for example.

Would you think that some general procedure such as this would be workable?

Dr. FARMAN. Yes, I do. I think we are coming to a point in the United States where we should do something helpful. I think the laws don't quite cover yet the food and drug industry properly. I am very much in favor of eliminating Chloromycetin from the market—if Dr. Austin Smith were here today, we could ask him just to remove the drug from the market and it would be very simple for you and the rest of us, and I think maybe he would do it. And then we don't have to pass legislation. It is not a drug that you need. There are many other safe drugs that you can use.

Of course, they won't claim that, and if you own stock in Parke, Davis, why you are interested in sales. But here we are dealing with a human element. And we think the time has come when concerted action should be undertaken—I mean both by the doctors and Mr. Elfstrom, the editor of the newspaper. It is hardly conceivable that this thing has been going for 18 years, since 1950.

Senator NELSON. Mr. Elfstrom.

Mr. ELFSTROM. I have a comment or two to make. I have quite a few articles in my newspaper about various disasters that have resulted from the indiscriminate use of this drug. And I am sure it has been read by most of the physicians in the community, many of whom are familiar with what I have been doing.

But a short while ago I got a telephone call from a druggist in a neighborhood town where we circulate quite heavily. And he said, "The doctors here are prescribing Chloromycetin like mad for the flu."

Senator NELSON. For the flu?

Mr. ELFSTROM. For the flu. And here, after not only the warning