

Senator NELSON. Oh, no. You said that, "It is not the advertising campaign of the drug manufacturers that convinces the practitioner of the virtues and safety of a new drug. His judgment of the benefits and reliability of a drug is based upon his own personal experience gained from listening to and examining his patient."

Dr. SMYTH. I think I will qualify that to arthritic drugs, sir.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Dr. SMYTH. As I look at indomethacin from the vantage point of 5 years of practical experience, coupled with my knowledge of the many reports from other parts of the world, this drug has established a place in the treatment of arthritic patients. Furthermore, it has achieved a reasonable degree of both patient and physician acceptance in large-scale clinical use, which, in the final analysis is the only true test of any therapeutic agent or procedure. I would be handicapped in the management of many arthritic patients without this drug.

(The attachment to Dr. Smyth's statement follows:)

MEDICINE—AN ART AS WELL AS A SCIENCE

In spite of the truly miraculous advances in the sciences of chemistry and pharmacology that synthesize and bring from the laboratory to the doctor new drugs for trial, there are still some factors that are unique in determining the true value of a new drug in a human being. The practice of medicine is not a pure science; it is both an art and a science. In men and women with arthritis of rheumatoid type there is no simple magic test that gives us yes and no answers. Unfortunately, as of now, this is not so. Judgment or medical opinion in weighing the effectiveness or the lack of it with a drug like Indomethacin is based upon experience and previous responses using other, better understood anti-rheumatic agents.

Dr. SMYTH. I am extremely grateful to you, Senator Nelson, for permitting me the opportunity to appear before your committee. Thank you very much.

Senator NELSON. Doctor, the committee appreciates your taking the time to come here and testify.

As to your last sentence, I hope you do not have the impression that we have had witnesses from the FDA and elsewhere who said that indomethacin should not be in the marketplace.

Dr. SMYTH. This is my impression, from the testimony of FDA and others included, that this drug should not be used, medical evidence notwithstanding.

Senator NELSON. You mean it is your opinion that testimony has been presented that this drug should not be available to the public?

Dr. SMYTH. Yes.

Senator NELSON. No; I thought in the last sentence, there was an indication that you believed that witnesses before this committee recommended that the drug be taken off the market.

Dr. SMYTH. Senator, these remarks have been prepared in Denver. They appear exactly as printed.

Senator NELSON. I thought you had the impression that some of the witnesses were saying this drug did not have any value. But, the general consensus, as I understood it from the witnesses who have testified today and on previous days, is that this drug has an appropriate place in the physician's armamentarium.

Mr. GORDON. Doctor, I just want to ask one question.