

But first it suggests, in the language of the bulletin here for the detail man:

Sure you can use aspirin, but the patient has probably already used aspirin before he visits his physician. Furthermore, no less an authority than Dr. Howard Polley of the Mayo Clinic has said, "I wouldn't put Indocin in the category of aspirin. I think it is more potent. But if Indocin is as good as aspirin, that is a pretty good claim in my view. That is a recommendation for indomethacin."

Now there is a break in the quote of Dr. Polley's opinion. The implication of this quote is, if it were indeed used by a detail man to a doctor, that Dr. Polley is saying that, since indomethacin is as good as aspirin, he would recommend Indocin instead of aspirin. I don't know if that is his view. Whether it is or not, it isn't the view of experts in the field in general. I haven't had a chance to locate this statement by Dr. Polley.

Senator NELSON. You say there is a break in the quote. You mean there was something more said by Dr.—what is his name?

Dr. McCLEERY. Polley. Yes, but I don't mean to imply anything more than to describe that there is a break in the quote. I am not suggesting that they have broken it at any particular point for any particular reason.

Senator NELSON. You don't know what the full quote is?

Dr. McCLEERY. No, sir. I don't know where it came from, where he said it or anything like that.

The bulletin goes on to say that—

If he [the physician] is a gambling soul—

And again I have to break the quote and make a parenthetical statement. I don't know whether this is a Freudian slip, but constantly the language used here spells soul "s-o-l-e." I assume he means "soul." The quote goes on to say—

If he is a gambling sole, and almost no physician ever likes to gamble with his patient's welfare. He can prescribe Butazolidin if he is a gambling sole.

Senator NELSON. He can prescribe what?

Dr. McCLEERY. Butazolidin, a competitive product.

Senator NELSON. That purports to be a quote from whom?

Dr. McCLEERY. I was quoting from this Bulletin No. 77, September 11, 1967.

Senator NELSON. What about contraindications? The July 12 instructional bulletin says,

Other than that (pregnancy) the only contraindications to therapy with Indocin are ulcerative colitis, active peptic ulcer, and gastritis.

Now, that isn't a correct statement, is it?

Dr. McCLEERY. Will you ask that again, please? I don't mean the whole question.

Senator NELSON. In the July 12 instructional bulletin they say,

Other than that (pregnancy) the only contraindications to therapy with Indocin are ulcerative colitis, active peptic ulcer, and gastritis.

Is that a correct statement?

Dr. McCLEERY. The statement that you are repeating from the bulletin is an incorrect statement in reference to the full range of contraindications as contained in the package labeling.