

Dr. MINCHEW. Not for the coming year, because we have not received that in final yet.

Senator HATFIELD. Have you made requests for specific additional staff in your division, in the Bureau of Medicine?

Dr. MINCHEW. Yes, sir; we have. We are currently operating under a personnel freeze system, under a replacement system where at the present we can only hire one for every two losses, so that even approved figures at this point in time don't enable us to obtain the staff.

Senator HATFIELD. About how much understaffed do you consider yourself at this point?

Dr. MINCHEW. Well, we are currently right now at around 480 people in the Bureau of Medicine, with an approved number last year of somewhere around 560.

Senator HATFIELD. And you made a request for more in the coming—

Dr. MINCHEW. Yes, sir; we have.

Senator HATFIELD. What figure is that?

Dr. MINCHEW. I would have to check that figure. I can't give it to you right now.

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you.

Dr. MINCHEW. The only other point I would make that I think is critically related to the discussion of this specific drug is that, in this area, and that is the area of physicians with specialty training in infectious diseases and antibiotic therapy, they are even much more scarce, much harder to find than a physician in general.

Senator HATFIELD. When do you expect to have your work completed on the insert label updating of these other products in the industry?

Dr. MINCHEW. I would have to check with the operating division, Senator.

Senator HATFIELD. You don't know?

Dr. MINCHEW. I do not know right at this moment, no.

Senator HATFIELD. Yet you have great detail to give us today on everything that Pfizer did or did not do in this whole case, in this whole controversy, and yet you do not know what this whole time schedule is in your own agency on updating these other insert labels?

Dr. MINCHEW. This is something I would have to check with the operating division. I have these details concerning this particular drug because this was the drug I was asked to comment upon.

Senator NELSON. That may be my fault, Senator. I asked them to discuss detailing and promotion of the drug, and I didn't specifically ask this question, but I assume that you can produce it for the record for us.

Senator HATFIELD. I think it would be very important, Mr. Chairman, to see how the agency is moving on the other pharmaceutical houses on this drug.

Senator NELSON. Please go ahead.

Dr. MINCHEW. A revised "package insert" received March 10, 1967, still did not contain the animal toxicity data, made claims that Vibramycin had a different spectrum than other tetracyclines, did not list all the warnings and adverse reactions recommended, and included some diseases in the indications section for which efficacy had not been shown. Changes we considered necessary in the labeling were further discussed with the company in a telephone conversation on March 30, 1967, and at a meeting on April 19.