

as being. Laws have been passed by the most reliable governmental deliberative body in the world, the Congress of the United States, and some of those laws were not what they had been represented as being. Fortunately, drug houses and Congress, each in its own time, have removed no good drugs and no good laws from the people. And I need not remind you of the time record or the batting average. My point is, both institutions are good but not perfect, and both need constant attention in order to get the desired results.

Let me tell you what enters into my consideration in choosing a drug for my patient.

To do so, I must again illustrate how unrealistic it is to pretend it is drug companies alone that make up my mind for me.

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt for a second, Doctor.

Dr. HAGOOD. Yes.

Senator NELSON. I don't think we have had any testimony that I can recall before the committee that asserted that drug companies alone make up the minds of all doctors in prescribing the drugs. But the testimony has been that it is a variable situation in which some doctors rely much too heavily upon the advertising and the promotion of the companies. It has not been that we have had witnesses saying all doctors rely upon the drug companies to make up their minds.

Dr. HAGOOD. It was my feeling that this was alluded to, as I read through some of the proceedings of this. For instance. On page 570 of the Nelson hearings there is a statement there by Dr. Cluff; on May 15, 1967, there was a statement by Dr. Holloman; Dr. Carstenson on May 17, 1967, made the statement that led me to make this statement. Dr. Modell in June 1967 and Dr. Magee on page 492 of the Nelson hearings, and these were the statements from which I drew this.¹

Senator NELSON. Did any of those witnesses in their statements, state that drug companies are the only influence on doctors, for all doctors on all drugs that they prescribed.

Dr. HAGOOD. To my knowledge they did not say that drug companies alone do this.

Senator NELSON. That was the reason I was raising this. You see, so many of the medical publications, throwaways supported exclusively by drug advertising, other publications supported heavily by drug advertising, would take excerpts from statements and then draw a broad conclusion from them which caused doctors to believe that witnesses before the committee, distinguished witnesses, were saying that all doctors are simply victims of the propaganda of the drug companies and all doctors rely solely upon drug company promotion and advertising for their prescribing practices. I am not aware of any testimony to that effect.

Please go ahead.

Dr. HAGOOD. I am, I suspect, no more an avid reader than most GP's; that is to say I read, regularly and rather fully, two or three national medical journals. In addition, I am active in my local and State medical societies. I am a member of the AMA. I belong to the American Academy of General Practice. A look at any one of the dozens of programs of AAGP in promoting postgraduate education shows the

¹ See hearings, "Competitive Problems in the Drug Industry"; testimony of: Dr. Cluff, pt. 2, pp. 559-580; Dr. Holloman, pt. 1, pp. 4-54; Dr. Carstenson, pt. 1, pp. 228-237; Dr. Modell, pt. 1, pp. 283-305; Dr. Magee, pt. 2, pp. 486-499.