

Studies said during the 1-year period from July 1966 to June 1967, an estimated 71.8 percent of all physician visits took place in the physician's office. This figure is growing because this represented an increase of 10 percent over the 1957-58 study year.

A further breakdown of NCHS figures shows general practitioners accounted for 64 percent of office visits and 85 percent of house calls. Patient visits to all physicians totaled 831.1 million.

That many millions of visits to doctors doesn't impress one until it is related to a concern of this committee. Mr. Chairman, every one of those visits to a physician represents at least one prescription written or refilled. And that means if all these prescriptions were written at once and distributed to the population of these United States each man, woman, and child would each have four prescriptions in their hand.

Senator NELSON. Are you saying there that every patient receives a prescription for a drug?

Dr. HAGOOD. I am saying this represents a prescription or a refill prescription. This is my assumption.

Senator NELSON. That everybody who visits a doctor gets a prescription for a drug or a refill.

Dr. HAGOOD. No, I was trying to relate this figure to something that was of concern to this committee, so that I simply used this to emphasize the number of patient visits to doctors throughout this country.

Senator NELSON. But you weren't saying that every patient who comes to your office gets prescribed a drug?

Dr. HAGOOD. No, I was not saying that.

Senator NELSON. I want to thank you very much, Doctor, again for taking the time from your busy practice to come here.

Just so that you won't have any misunderstanding about how this committee is proceeding, we have made it clear from the first day that, on every issue raised of any consequence before the committee, that the committee would invite the viewpoint, every viewpoint, as to that issue raised. That is what we have been following. A number of times the PMA has made attacks on the committee saying the witnesses are handpicked, the committee is unfair, the viewpoints aren't being heard, and that is a gross misrepresentation.

It shocks me to see how often the PMA representing this great distinguished industry would intentionally propagandize in this fashion.

Our position has been that first preference goes to the drug companies on any issue raised which concerns them. We have invited every drug manufacturer in America, publicly several times, to appear before this committee on any aspect of these hearings they wished. Very few of them have volunteered. We have invited them all repeatedly.

We have invited every company who is criticized before this committee, immediately, as soon as we could arrange it, to have an opportunity to appear to discuss the criticism that is made of them. I don't see how we could be more fair than that.

We have made it clear that we will hear the viewpoints of all medical organizations in this country, and including the Academy of General Practitioners because I happen to think it is a very important aspect of the practice of medicine in this country.

You may be assured there is not a single viewpoint group of any significance at all that won't be amply heard. If they think that the