

I don't know whether you would consider that a useful enterprise or not, but it might very well be. I don't know whether you have the facilities to do that, but perhaps they may be available in NIH or HEW. I believe it would be valuable because nobody seems to be able to tell us, you know, what the variations are, nor why.

Dr. Wehrle raised the question yesterday, for example, whether or not chloramphenicol was prescribed widely or not at all or in fair amount during the flu epidemic? Does anybody know that?

Dr. LEY. No. This is a question we asked our consultants and they had no firm answer at this time.

Senator NELSON. I wish you would take a look at it. It may well be that you could get some helpful information.

It isn't indicated for influenza, is it?

Dr. LEY. No, sir, it would not be indicated for influenza under any condition.

Mr. GORDON. Coming back to the Reader's Digest of February 1968, you stated the ad recommended the drug for uses that were not warranted and seriously understated the hazards, side effects, and contraindications. Could anything have been done along these lines to make the Reader's Digest perhaps run a remedial ad?

Dr. LEY. This is a question I would like to turn over to our General Counsel.

Mr. GOODRICH. We have no direct authority to require any type of remedial ad. We have required some by persuasion, if you might call it that, where we had a choice of taking action against the company or its drug, but we would not have authority over Reader's Digest at all.

Mr. GORDON. How about moral or ethical authority? Couldn't you, for example, approach the Reader's Digest and say, look, this is a false and misleading ad. How about correcting it for the sake of the public welfare?

Mr. GOODRICH. Sure, that could be done.

Mr. GORDON. That wasn't done, though, was it?

Mr. GOODRICH. That was not.

Mr. GORDON. Thank you.

Senator NELSON. I want to thank you, Dr. Ley, for your very valuable testimony. I wouldn't want you to feel that because we might have had some differences that I do not think the FDA in the past—since Dr. Goddard's administration and yours—hasn't been doing a superior job.

Dr. LEY. Thank you, very much.

Senator NELSON. Thank you, Doctor.

(The supplemental information submitted by Dr. Ley follows:)