

Dr. Shapiro would not want a new drug compendium to be put out by the government because it would be "garbaged up" by all the material the FDA requires. He expects the AMA's forthcoming compendium to be more useful. "It will not be a *PDR*. It will be a scientifically composed book with therapeutic and symptom information the government does not provide." Dr. Shapiro says it would be handy if the AMA volume would include cost information. "But I have solved that problem. I keep a copy of the pharmacists' *Red Book*, which gives all costs, in my office desk drawer."

The chairman of the AMA council, Dr. John Adriani of New Orleans, also believes that the information currently supplied doctors is sufficient for them to prescribe drugs safely. "But the doctor needs more information than what he gets from the package inserts, ads, and detail men," says Dr. Adriani. "The information put out by drug companies is all right for safety. But the 'why' and 'how' you've just got to go out and get yourself."

Considerably more angry about the hearings is Dr. Clinton S. McGill Jr. of Portland, Oreg. "It seems very clear that Senator Nelson does not want anyone to tell the story from the private practitioner's point of view, or even to allow us to defend ourselves against the scurrilous attacks that are now a part of the public record," Dr. McGill told a recent meeting of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. Dr. McGill accused the subcommittee of believing that "we doctors are simple boobs, so snowed under by drug advertising that we can't select the right therapeutic agents for our patients."

"Anyone who has even casual acquaintance with medical literature knows that long before any important new product is ever marketed, there will be a number of articles on it in our professional journals. Next, it will be described in some detail in the *JAMA* section on new drugs. All of this, mind you, before the product is distributed."

Dr. McGill defended the content of drug advertising and described detail men as "trained professionals who provide us with valuable information." He does not look with favor on government drug publications. "I am sure the physicians of this country have a great deal more confidence in our own council on drugs than we would ever have in a publication of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—at least as long as the present atmosphere exists."

Senator NELSON. Beginning today, and continuing throughout the month of March, the committee hearings will be devoted exclusively to major medical associations and a medical consultant who was formerly a professor of pharmacology.

Our witnesses today are Dr. Blaise Alfano and Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr., of the Huntingdon Research Center, Inc. of Baltimore, Md.

He is professor emeritus of the Department of Pharmacology of the University of Maryland.

Our first witness this morning is Dr. Blaise Alfano, executive secretary of the American Society of Abdominal Surgeons.

You have submitted a biographical sketch which will be printed in the record prior to your statement, Doctor.

(The biographical sketch of Dr. Alfano follows:)

BIOLOGICAL SKETCH OF BLAISE F. ALFANO, M.D.

Date of Birth : September 14, 1923—Boston, Massachusetts.

Boston Latin School : 1942

Harvard University, A.B., 1946 :

Accelerated course—(1942-1944 and summer of 1946) Degree awarded in 1952.

Secretary-Treasurer, Harvard Student Council.

Secretary to Philip Brooks House.

Elected to 1946 Class Committee 1946 to date.

1946 Class Treasurer 1946 to 1956.

U.S. Navy active duty 1943-1946 : Ensign, USNR, Aleutian Islands

Tufts Medical School : M.D. 1950.

Internship : Cambridge City Hospital—July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951.

Surgical Residency : Cambridge City Hospital, July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1954.

Chief Surgical Resident : July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954.

Instructor in Surgery : Tufts Medical School