

Defense Supply Agency. The important question is, does the drug meet USP standards?

Dr. ALFANO. I believe it is more than just USP standards on that. They have their own testing for drugs.

Senator NELSON. They test on USP standards, I take it.

Dr. ALFANO. I will not speak on that I understand there is a clinical evaluation of these products. They inspect the drug companies, the factories where they manufacture.

Senator NELSON. I am not aware that they do any clinical evaluation when they take bids on drugs. They analyze them on their own to see if they meet USP standards.

Dr. ALFANO. It is my understanding that 44 percent of these drugs are rejected. That must mean they are rejected on substandard manufacturing reasons.

Senator NELSON. I would suspect they reject as many brand names as they do generic. The only test we have is the test of the FDA of 4,600 drugs, 2,600 of them generic, the other 2,000 brand name, for potency. Of the brand name drugs, 8.8 percent did not meet the USP potency test; 7.7 percent of the generics did not. So, in a miscellaneous test of 250 manufacturers of 4,600 drugs on potency, the generic drug was better quality, met the standards slightly better than the brand name.

What would be your observation about that? If that is the only test you went on, would you not be saying, you could not trust the brand name, I will gamble with the generics, because they meet the potency tests better?

Dr. ALFANO. If that is the only test you go by. Was not that test rejected as not valid? The one you quoted?

Senator NELSON. Dr. Goddard testified on that. Out of the 4,600, there was a mistake on something like half a dozen.

Dr. ALFANO. I will have to send that in. I do not have it here. But as I understand, that is dramatically different from the original figures you quoted.

(Material not received.)

Senator NELSON. Here is the testimony from Dr. Goddard. It has been in the record for a long time, unrefuted by anybody. You would imagine it would be refuted the next day by the pharmaceutical manufacturers, if it were possible.

In six samples involving five firms, after the review of the original data, they did concede that they had made an error. So they conceded six errors out of 4,600. It still would not change the percentage. The generic drug names met the standards of potency better than the brand name.

Dr. ALFANO. I believe there is something later than that. I could not give it to you now.

Senator NELSON. No; there has been nothing later. The quote is—Dr. Goddard—"Now the other original findings I still say are correct. We stand behind these as long as it is understood that this is not a representative sample of the marketplace." That is, they were miscellaneous collection from 250 manufacturers.

All I say is—

Dr. ALFANO. What does he mean, not representative?

Senator NELSON. Well, they did not try to take a representative sample. They were just drugs that were from 250 different manu-