

to my asking them, but most of the questions, I will ask when you finish.

Dr. ANNIS. Mr. Chairman, if it meets your approval, I will not extemporize during my original presentation. This has been prepared pursuant to your request so that we can have a record. We have condensed it as much as is possible. If I would be allowed to present our entire statement first—I would like to withhold extemporaneous remarks and answers to the chairman until after that presentation, if this meets with your approval.

Senator NELSON. Fine.

Dr. ANNIS. In correspondence between this committee and our association, it has been requested that I include in my discussion these topics:

1. The AMA itself.
2. The evaluation of advertising appearing in AMA publications.
3. Revenue of the association from advertising in its publications.
4. AMA views on a comprehensive drug compendium.
5. Prescription labeling.

All of these subjects are included in this statement, along with exhibits of supporting data which I shall not read, but which will be available for your further information. In addition, I will offer some brief comments which I believe you will find pertinent.

I would like to hope that what I say here today is as carefully reviewed in the Nation's press and in other communications media as the testimony of earlier witnesses has been. If it is, I know it will buttress the public's confidence in American medicine, which I feel has been weakened by some statements this committee has heard.

This Nation is blessed with many hundreds of medical organizations and medical journals, along with hundreds of thousands of physicians and allied medical and health personnel, devoted to improving the health care of the people.

Medicine in this country is already good. That fact can be attested to by millions of men, women, and children who are helped by physicians—and by drugs—every day.

The goals of this committee will not be achieved, and the best interests of the Government and of the Nation's people are not served by undermining confidence in the medical profession or any of the other professions and occupations working to maintain or restore good health.

Mr. Chairman, let me now turn to the topics I promised to cover.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The AMA was founded 122 years ago in a nation and a world entirely different from those we now know. In 1847, there were only 29 States with a combined total population less than the present population of the New York and Chicago consolidated areas.

Three primary desires motivated the conscientious physicians and medical school faculties of that day to found a national professional association in medicine.

One was the need to establish and maintain a code of ethics by which physicians' behavior and professional performance could be judged by their peers and the public.