

discussion of the therapeutic agents used in the treatment and control of the problems being covered by the course.

The medical profession has great respect for the results of drug research. It recognizes that a great number of the specific medical advances of the last three decades have been in the area of chemotherapy—of drugs.

These advances have come about because of the varied support of research and development—by the private drug industry, through academic contributions supported by private and Federal grants and directly from the Federal Government.

If financial support for research and development were confined to only one of those sources, it is possible—even probable, I think—that the research would be directed into whatever approach was of most interest to the sponsoring body. That could mean fewer innovative discoveries and applications.

Speaking of the application of drug discoveries, the American Medical Association has always advocated the rational use of therapeutic agents by physicians in treating patients and has consistently expressed its firm belief that the physician should have for his patient the very best drug available for the patient's condition.

At the same time, the AMA has urged that physicians be aware of the economic factors connected with the use of drugs.

In this regard, I would like to present the essence of a position adopted by the AMA House of Delegates:

Physicians should be free to use either the generic or the brand name in prescribing drugs for their patients; and physicians should supplement medical judgments with cost consideration in making this choice.

A copy of the report is included as exhibit J and I ask that it be inserted in the record at this point.

Senator NELSON. It will be printed in the record.

Dr. ANNIS. Thank you.

(The exhibit referred to follows:)