

not say "Ours is better." As the Senator is well aware, about a year and a half ago I had requested, through Senator Smathers the opportunity to come to these hearings and speak as a private physician. At that time I did not realize that I was going to be elected to the Board of Trustees and have an opportunity to serve the American Medical Association.

When I went into the practice of medicine, we did not have all these drugs. When I talk to medical students today, I remind them that 90 percent of the drugs they learn about were not in existence when I went into medical school. I have two sons in medical school, and what they study, what they learn, was not known when I was there. I grew up knowing that I lost a young brother who died of an infectious disease because what he had could not be controlled. I lost a father at the age of 22 from a ruptured appendix. So I know as a clinician what these drugs mean. I have seen what they mean. I have seen people and children die of diseases that now we prevent and control. I am one of those who has grown up with great respect for the pharmaceutical industry.

Over this same period of time, with the constant addition of all these new drugs, naturally others have come in with the idea of producing. But, though I prescribe generically on occasion and I prescribe generically with the name of two or three producers following, I lean heavily on the reputable, responsible, long-term members of a great industry because I believe that, in most instances, I can depend upon their reliability.

There is a second reason. There are only, out of some 1,700 or 1,800 drug manufacturers—only about 130 or 140 do any significant amount of research. It is from this group that have come some 95 or 97 percent of all these drugs that I have seen produced in my 30 years as a physician. So, naturally, I feel obligated as a physician—as an individual practitioner, for what it has done for me and the tools that they have given—to support that segment of the pharmaceutical industry that is more than just a business, that segment which also does the research and has come up with one tool after another—first to control infection and diseases and then put into the hands of doctors in the field of anesthesiology, upon whom surgeons are dependent, some of the tools that have made possible modern surgery as we know it. So when I prescribe a drug—I do not care what it is—I generally will support that segment of this great industry that continues research, that continues to seek out other and better ways to solve the problems that we have not solved.

In my personal experience, it goes beyond just generic or trade mark drugs. It also goes to support that segment of the industry—I do not know what percentage it is, but I would guess 10 percent or less of the total industry—who are doing this great amount of research which I think is a boon to America and to medicine.

Senator NELSON. I have some more on this, but Senator Dole has a question.

Senator DOLE. First, I apologize for being late. I have been at another committee hearing.

I am a new member of this committee and I have not had the benefit of the extended hearings held in the past 2 years. I do not want to spend a lot of time covering old ground, but I have a question or two.

I am a great believer in drugs. I do not know whether they are