

it, they do not believe it and do not accept it. But this is not the fault of a failure on the part of the AMA to attempt to properly inform its members.

Senator NELSON. Well, I think, Doctor, and I think you will agree with this, that the medical profession, the AMA, has a peculiar responsibility.

Dr. ANNIS. I would agree.

Senator NELSON. It is not like an ad for a piece of machinery or something else which may be deceptive. It may fall apart and it may do all kinds of things. The AMA is highly regarded by the medical profession and by the public. It seems to me they have to do much more in terms of their responsibility than just saying—

Dr. ANNIS. And we do—

Senator NELSON (continuing). Than just saying FDA approves.

Dr. ANNIS. I agree with you, and we do.

Senator NELSON. Let me ask you a question: The AMA Journal is still running the ad: "When it counts, Chloromycetin."?

Dr. ANNIS. That is still true. When it counts, it is the drug. When it is indicated, it is the drug.

Senator NELSON. But you and I know what they mean by that.

Dr. ANNIS. What do they mean, Senator? You read into it something that some of our doctors obviously do not. I agree with you, let's get the message to those who do not.

Senator NELSON. Let me ask you a question: The medical profession does have a peculiar, very important responsibility to the public. Why should they not insist that in big print, right here, it says "The National Academy of Sciences says this drug is not 'the' drug of choice for any disease"?

You might say, well, this drug passes the FDA. I do not think you can shift your responsibility to the FDA. If you are willing, I have some laws I would like to pass and have your support on. But it is serious enough and they are not reading fine print any more. If it is correct, as you say—and I have no information one way or another, but I doubt it—I think there are plenty of young doctors prescribing this.

Dr. ANNIS. I do not say there are not. I am asking you. I would love to know, too. I do not know any young ones that are.

Senator NELSON. I do not know, either. But if it is true that lots of of them, and I think that is correct, that lots of them are people who have been prescribing it for many, many years, therefore, they do not read the new contraindications—

Dr. ANNIS. It could be.

Senator NELSON. They see the reminder. That helps remind them. They have been using it. It is being widely misused, and because of the AMA's, the medical profession's peculiar responsibility, why do they not say, this just is not working and it is being overused and if you are going to run this ad in our Journal, I want to be sure that the doctor who reads it sees in big print, "Not indicated as the drug of choice for anything" and some other precautions, plus the editorials that are big and displayed prominently in the Journal.

Dr. ANNIS. The editorials and all these approaches there, our council on drugs and the ranking members of the elected representatives of the association share your concern. I have repeated this over and