

Mr. HARRISON. Yes, we review the Federal Register, no question about it.

Senator NELSON. Then my question is, since this has been an item of such importance and with so much discussion in the past year, and there is such a failure on the part of somebody to convince the doctors not to overprescribe, why did not the AMA Journal, which carries all the ads, give prominent play to the fact that the National Academy of Sciences says it is not the drug of choice for any disease?

Mr. HARRISON. I would have to review exactly what is stated there—what is stated in the Register. You do not happen to have a copy of the Register at the moment?

I would only say to you, Senator, that we would need to look again at the Register and see what action was taken by the AMA pursuant to it. It would be through the mill to effect the implementation.

I cannot respond at the moment, first, because I do not recall the specific situation, except to say as to what it likely must have been, and second, because we do not have a copy of the Federal Register on hand. If you would like further information on that, we shall be glad to supply it to you.

Senator NELSON. I would, but do you not agree that this raises a question. Here is a very important document on a very important issue, the leading medical organization of America is directly involved in this. It carries ads in the area, carries articles about the drug, is concerned about the misprescribing of the drug, and apparently, no prominent story is run—we could not find any.

Dr. ANNIS. Senator, could you get somebody to get a copy of the Register so that we could have some people review it. It might be a good idea for us to know what we are talking about.

Senator NELSON. We will see if we can get it upstairs. But I would have thought it was just routine for everybody—

Mr. HARRISON. Routine would not be sufficient, Senator. If it is of that importance, it should not be handled in a routine manner. We receive the Federal Register on a regular basis. We also receive copies of the Congressional Record on a regular basis and your daily calendar on a regular basis. There are a thousand bills of health interest that are introduced in every Congress we review on a regular basis.

I think in the last Congress there were 1,500 health bills. There are many things important to medicine, and the health of the Nation, that the AMA is interested in. On a routine basis, we take these matters and process them through the various councils and committees of the AMA directly concerned with these subjects, and again on a routine basis, give them an opportunity to comment and provide their expert opinion.

This may have been in the nature of a routine matter. If so, a copy of that article or a copy of that notice would have been sent to the Council on Drugs to be considered in its usual course of business—when they next meet again. If it was more than routine, perhaps other action would have been taken. At this moment, it appears that this was a notice to manufacturers with respect to changes in labeling. Until some further comment is made and the picture develops, we would be unable to provide further information.

Senator NELSON. Well, I did not mean that it is routine in the sense that it was unimportant. I meant that I would assume that it