

I have never seen one. I do not say there have never been any, I have never seen one; news stories about the industry, especially when there have been conspiracies as to prices, seem to have played them down in the medical press if covered at all; that the AMA itself gave wide prominence to tolbutamide USP which Dr. Miller of the USP, destroyed by his analysis of it; that the task force report of the FDA found a significant difference in generic and brand names does not seem to be covered in the medical press very prominently at all; that the 4,600 drug tests do not seem to be publicized widely if at all; and that the testimony before this committee—I am not referring specifically to anything in particular to any of yours, I am just referring generally—by representatives of medical groups and by individual doctors recites consistently exactly the same arguments that the pharmaceutical manufacturers made; that you cannot trust the generics, that they are not equivalent, that brand-name companies do research, and therefore they are entitled to our support, that in general, as I said, the one group of people who are qualified in the profession to make criticisms of practices in the profession—practices by the manufacturers—is, I think, effectively silenced by the close information check.

Now, there have been very distinguished individual physicians, pharmacologists, clinicians, and experts of various kinds who have made some very strong criticisms of the practices of the pharmaceutical manufacturers in relationship to the subject, but we did not find that, at least I did not, in the journals I look through or in the medical press. So does it not really raise the question that there is a very close relationship here, just in the nature of it, and everybody is so friendly that everybody ends up by not criticizing anybody else; is not that the kind of thing we get?

Dr. POLLARD. Well, Senator, if I may express my own reaction to your comments, my information and my knowledge about this problem is really not in keeping with your comments.

Senator NELSON. Pardon?

Dr. POLLARD. I said my reaction and my knowledge is not in keeping with the comments which you have just made.

And let me tell you why I say that. Your one comment was that there were very few if any critical comments about drugs or pharmaceutical products appearing in medical journals. Is that—that has not been my experience. In medical journals—and I brought with me a group of programs of regional meetings throughout the United States just the past 12 months, and I ticked off in here the papers that were presented in all of these relative to drug intolerance, drug sensitivity, damage to the liver, damage to the stomach—

Senator NELSON. Were these papers delivered at medical conferences?

Dr. POLLARD. Oh, yes. These are regional meetings of the American College of Physicians—and by region I mean usually a State or, in some instances, two or three States together. Now, these are just our ways and means of educating our physicians. And all I am doing is pointing out that I think we attempt to keep the doctor educated by meetings. By publications, by articles in the annals, and by our annual scientific sessions, plus our postgraduate courses on all of the complications that go along with it. And then for that reason, while we must