

ing frightened by reading information which they cannot possibly interpret properly without a medical background.

One other item that I do not have in this written statement. Sometimes when medicines are labeled to exactly what they are, it is quite surprising sometimes how often patients prescribe for other patients, or they exchange medicine, when the name of it is on the bottle. And there has been an article by one of the columnists in the newspaper telling how, for example, some friends, neighbors, grandma, a relative, or someone else, say, you have got some of that so-and-so medicine, I should take some, and how in that respect sometimes people take drugs that they should not be taking because their friend has it and they saw the name of it and recognized it from some article in the lay press.

So that is one disadvantage. I think there are many advantages, but there is occasional disadvantages that I have run into.

From the testimony given here previously as I have read it, I believe most witnesses and also this committee recognize the advantages and disadvantages of generic prescribing and everyone is generally agreed that the attending physician has the privilege and the duty to prescribe what he believes to be best for the particular patient in the particular circumstances which exist at the time the decision must be made and that dispensing pharmacists should never make substitutions for the specific preparation prescribed.

I will be glad to answer any questions I can. Thank you for your kind attention.

Senator NELSON. Just so that it will be clear, I think, no witness that has testified here has suggested that the physician should not be able to designate the manufacturer or the brand.

Dr. LONG. Yes, I read your statement in the testimony to that effect.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Doctor, for taking time from your busy schedule to come here and testify. It has been very helpful to the committee. Thank you.

Dr. LONG. Thank you, sir.

Senator Nelson. The committee will meet at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning in room 4221, the Foreign Relations Committee room.

(Whereupon, at 12:10 p.m., the subcommittee was recessed, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 26, 1969.)