

Senator NELSON. Your statement will be printed in full in the record. Did you submit a separate statement of biographical data, or did you wish to present anything in that regard?

Dr. SHAPIRO. That can be submitted, Mr. Chairman.<sup>1</sup>

Senator NELSON. If you wish, we would be pleased to print it in the record preceding your statement.

Dr. SHAPIRO. Thank you.

Senator NELSON. You may proceed to present your statement in any way you desire. If you wish to depart at any time to elaborate on anything you have said, feel free to do so. I assume you have no objection if we interrupt occasionally with questions, and if your associates wish to comment at any time, they are free to do so.

Dr. SHAPIRO. We have abbreviated this statement to the maximum extent, Mr. Chairman, and possibly the flow of our prepared testimony would be best uninterrupted. However, I have no objection if it is necessary for clarity to stop at any time.

Senator NELSON. Very well.

Dr. SHAPIRO. Mr. Chairman, I am Dr. Maynard I. Shapiro, a family physician with offices at 7531 Stony Island Avenue in Chicago. I am also clinical associate professor of medicine at Chicago Medical School and director of medical education at Jackson Park Hospital. I am a member of the Medical Assistance Advisory Council of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. I am here today as president of the American Academy of General Practice. The academy is the Nation's second largest medical association and presently has more than 31,000 members.

I have not read all or even most of the testimony presented since your committee hearings started almost 2 years ago. I will not pose as an expert on all health care matters but I can and do speak as a practicing family physician who is primarily concerned with people—be they healthy, ill, injured or infirm.

Your letter asked for information about the academy, its membership, its admission requirements, its publications, its advertising acceptance criteria, its advertising revenues and its other financial relationships with the drug industry. The letter closed with a suggestion that I comment on drug compendium proposals. I will attempt to give you the information you have requested and then add a few comments—in my official capacity as president of the academy.

To become an active member of the academy, a physician must be engaged in the general practice of medicine, be a graduate of an approved medical school, be duly licensed to practice medicine and be a member of his State medical society. But, to remain a member, he must complete 150 hours of academy-approved postgraduate study every 3 years. The academy is the only national medical association which requires continuing postgraduate study.

This should adequately illustrate the academy's continuing determination to maintain high health care standards. As another example, most recently, the academy, in conjunction with the section on general practice of the American Medical Association, has been successful in its determined efforts to establish an examining board for family practice. This board will certify to the competence of family physi-

<sup>1</sup> See pp. 4786-4788, *infra*.