

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Hewitt, why did you have doubts about organized medicine?

Dr. HEWITT. Well, I think that one can safely say that at least some areas of organized medicine have not been known for their ability to select the side of issues which will eventually prove to be either the best ones or even correct. And it was that general misgiving that I had at the time. To some extent I think this has been confirmed by some of the remarks which Dr. Kunin has alluded to in terms of the attitude of the JAMA toward this white paper.

I hope I am not disappointed in terms of what the Congress will do.

Now, I think we may then go on to the combinations of antibiotics and rational treatment—

Senator NELSON. On what page is that?

Dr. HEWITT. That is on page 6.

The combinations of the antibiotics in the rational treatment of infectious diseases. At least some of this can be eliminated. Dr. Kunin has already stated these indications that have been advanced for prescribing these drugs. And the evidence for and against these indications may be discussed in brief.

I might answer one of Mr. Gordon's questions which had to do with the question of delay in publication of the white paper. I think this really has a simple answer. The white paper was prepared by Dr. Kunin and myself and reviewed by the other panel chairman as well as the other members of the panel. This I think completed our portion of the work.

It was then necessary that this be submitted to our board group consisting of the policy advisory committee of the Drug Review Board.

This took a certain amount of time. It was then submitted to JAMA and rejected, which took an additional amount of time. Actually once submitted to Dr. Ingelfinger at the New England Journal of Medicine I think this paper was accepted within a week.

And the remainder of the delay is related to the fact that journal space is limited and necessarily must be planned. I don't know how long it takes to get something published in the Federal Register, but I would assume that there is no limitation as to the length to which this may go, and it is primarily determined by the amount of material which is required to be printed, which is certainly not true with the journal.

So this I think in terms of general consideration is achieving prompt publication.

Dr. KUNIN. May I add a point there.

Ordinarily this paper should be published in June, according to the schedule of the New England Journal. But they moved it up to May, so that they really advanced it a month rather than later.

Dr. HEWITT. Dr. Kunin has further discussed the fact that these specific combinations of drugs would be poor choices for the purposes suggested, the fact that they are not available in acceptable and effective dosage in the combinations which exist. And I think that—

Senator NELSON. I meant to ask a question a moment ago. As I said to Dr. Kunin, Dr. Ingelfinger and the New England Journal were entitled to publish the paper first. I don't think there is any question about that. But may I ask, is this quite a comprehensive review of all the drugs, the antibiotics that were covered by the panel?