

And I said, "How would a doctor know that if he hadn't tried it on me?"

Can you tell me, how would you know that a man would have a very horrible side effect from either one of them without having tried it on him?

Dr. ADRIANI. He would not know if he didn't have the label, if he had not tried it. And there are some people who become very sleepy. For instance, an ally to Librium is Valium. This is a trade name. And this they give to people who have muscle spasm. I know if I take that drug it makes me sleepy.

Senator LONG. Valium?

Dr. ADRIANI. That is a trade name.

Senator LONG. For what, Librium?

Dr. ADRIANI. It is a modification of Librium. I cannot spell the generic name offhand. I should know it. Really I should know it. But I cannot spell it for you. If you asked me to spell that name, I could not spell it correctly. But if the drug had been introduced on the market with the generic name I would know the generic name and would be able to spell it; I would have to write the prescription generically instead of Valium.

Senator LONG. Another thing that bothers me about this thing, Doctor, is that right now I think the drug companies are trying to help pursue this hocus-pocus of never letting the patient know just what it is that he is taking. Some doctors ask, what drug stores do you do business with? I will call the pharmacist down there and you can pick it up.

And the druggist takes the bottle, which is correctly labeled, and he tears the label off and sticks something on there—"This is prescribed by Dr. Jones to be used as directed"—so that you never do know what it is. And why does he tear the label off? Just to keep you from finding out what the Food and Drug people required them to put on the bottle so that you would know what it was.

What good is that doing the patient?

Dr. ADRIANI. It is not doing any good.

I want to tell you, Senator, you know as well as I do what happened in south Louisiana when Hurricane Betsy struck. I was in Philadelphia, and I flew back to New Orleans. I had just bought a new car. They talked, in the press, about cars being rolled over. Fortunately my car was all right, but I noticed others were bashed in.

I got to Charity Hospital. As the waters receded we began to receive patients. They had run out of medicines they were taking, Orinase, insulin, and so on. They had the bottle with no identification of the drug on it except the doctor's name.

If you tried to call the pharmacy you made no contact, because it was under water. The prescriptions were all soaked with water. Besides, when you called you would get a busy signal, because there was no operative telephone connection.

We did not know what drugs those patients were getting. If the containers had been labeled, whatever it was, meproamate, digitalis, and so on, we could have given them their medicines. What we did was to try to locate the doctor or to figure out as best we could what medication he was getting. This worked a handicap on these people—and us also.