

Senator LONG. I was told by a major manufacturer that they not only check the drugs they are making and the ingredients going into them to insure good quality control, but they keep samples of everything that is sent out, and they check for deterioration. Further, they know where every package of their product is, so that if they find one of those samples is deteriorating in any way to the extent they wouldn't recommend that it be prescribed, they can take every one of this particular batch off the druggist's shelves and get rid of it, because it is no longer of the quality they would recommend.

Now, if I understand what you are suggesting, you would say that all of them should be made to do that?

Dr. ADRIANI. Yes, everyone. If you are going to sell something—after all, these things can be poisonous they should all meet standards. Of all the things that a doctor can do for you—he can cure you with a medicine, or he can make you comfortable. He does one or both of two things. He does these things with drugs.

Senator LONG. He can cure you, but he can also kill you.

Dr. ADRIANI. There were certain diseases that we cured surgically like doing a thyroid operation. We don't see those done as often. We give medicines that reduce the number requiring surgery.

The concepts of medical practice have been vastly changed by drugs. So drugs are very important and they should not be regarded lightly. And here we are, a society that can put a man into space and go around the moon, and send back a message of good will on Christmas eve, and we cannot standardize the names of one of the most vital commodities that the public uses to remain healthy. There is nothing more vital to a nation than its health.

Senator LONG. When I was practicing law a standard joke among lawyers, when they discussed the difference between the legal profession and the medical profession, was that the doctor can bury his mistakes. That is something a lawyer can't do, it is on the record when we make a mistake, and we have to pay for it.

But the potential of drugs both to help or hurt—many times isn't it true that a doctor has to make a decision, for example, where a person is suffering from more than one malady, which requires that the doctor give him something to help one aspect of his illness, which, in turn, may hurt him in another. The physician has to decide which of the patient's maladies takes priority, so that he decides to treat the one that is the greatest hazard to his health at any given moment.

Dr. ADRIANI. That is right, you have to choose which is the lesser of the two evils. I allude to that in my statement, I say that one of the things that is really being studied now quite intensively, that is of interest to all of us is drug interactions—how does the presence of one drug in the body influence the action of another.

We know that this happens frequently. And there are many recorded instances. As a matter of fact, Colonel Moser, at Walter Reed, has written a book on this particular subject. He was able to collect enough information on drug interactions to write a big, thick book, "The Diseases of Medical Progress," diseases induced by drugs. If one tried to write a factual book on generic equivalence—one could not write a pamphlet the size of my prepared statement.

Mr. GORDON. You testified that eliminating brand names would improve medical practice.