

Dr. ADRIANI. Why not? After all you go to a doctor for information. If a man has cancer should you or should you not tell him? Sometimes you talk it over with the family and they say, we would rather you not tell him. But you have to inform the patient of all the facts.

Senator LONG. So you think that if some company stamps a tablet together so hard the tablet won't dissolve in the body, the FDA ought to be checking on such situations?

Dr. ADRIANI. That is right. And if they indicate it meets U.S.P. standards and they compress the tablets so that they are too hard the FDA can say, you are not meeting U.S.P. standards and the FDA can hold them for misbranding.

Mr. DUFFY. Doctor, if I could return to a statement that you made a while back about NAS-NRC studies, you said the Council endorses these studies.

Dr. ADRIANI. Yes, sir.

Mr. DUFFY. Did they have access to these studies at some point?

Dr. ADRIANI. No. Those are in our minutes and they go to the board of trustees. We have requested that our statement be put in AMA News. This is generally available, the AMA News. I gave Mr. Gordon a copy of the Medical AMA News. It had something in there about the article that didn't get published, NAS-NRC study and the editor's statement as to why it didn't get published. So if the council's action is published in there, it would be available. Otherwise, the Council minutes go to the board of trustees. And from then on I don't know exactly what happens. They are filed away, I guess.

Mr. DUFFY. Are you saying, then, that the Council did not have access to any of these minutes?

Dr. ADRIANI. We have access to the minutes, but they are confidential.

Mr. DUFFY. So that you did have an opportunity to read them and review them?

Dr. ADRIANI. No, we don't disseminate them, they are confidential material.

Mr. DUFFY. We are trying to determine, Doctor, on what basis your council endorsed these studies. Did they have adequate access to the studies in order to form their opinion.

Dr. ADRIANI. They go to the basis of long standing policy in the AMA that fixed ratio combinations of drugs are irrational. This applies also to antibiotics. They are not an exception. There are one or two exceptions. "The pill," for instance, has been shown to be necessary in combinations—but there are very few. You can make a generalization about fixed ratio combinations of all drugs. This has been the practice, that we do not recommend fixed ratio combinations.

Mr. DUFFY. In other words, in endorsing the NAS-NRC study, the Council merely reiterated a prior position?

Dr. ADRIANI. Yes, we reiterate a prior position. But we also know that the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council are composed of people that are well known or have a status in scientific circles. I served on one of the subcommittees of the National Research Council, a subcommittee on surgery, for nearly 12 years. I think a term is 6, but somehow or other I just went on until finally Dr. Cannon said, "we hate to retire an old work horse, but it is now time."