

Dr. ADRIANI. That is right, I have not. I would like to have a demonstration from anyone who has bona fide evidence. They can make fancy curves plotted on logarithmic paper, but they mean little or nothing. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The question is when you give a patient a drug, does it make him well? How does he respond?

Senator LONG. Have you been in charge of buying drugs for New Orleans Charity while Dr. Bernhardt was in charge of Charity?

Dr. ADRIANI. I have not been in charge of buying. I stay away from finances.

But ordering drugs, yes. There are certain drugs that I want. If I think a particular commodity is better than another I requisition it. Sometimes the lowest price is not necessarily the lowest bid.

Senator LONG. In deciding what drugs to buy, you were in charge of it while Dr. Bernhardt was the head of New Orleans Charity?

Dr. ADRIANI. Yes.

Senator LONG. What is his first name? I should know it.

Dr. ADRIANI. Robert.

Senator LONG. He is regarded as one of the outstanding heart specialists in America, is he not?

Dr. ADRIANI. Yes. He is retired now. He is not doing much. But he was one of the finest clinicians in the city; yes.

Senator LONG. My uncle Earl who was Governor of Louisiana several times, thought that Dr. Bernhardt was just about the finest doctor anywhere in America. And I would take it that you had no quarrel with him about the way you were buying the drugs at New Orleans Charity?

Dr. ADRIANI. No.

Senator LONG. Did he agree with the practices?

Dr. ADRIANI. I have here a bid list showing how drugs are bought. They are bought under a State contract. Then we have this formulary which we follow at Charity.

Senator LONG. Dr. Ochsner is in New Orleans. He has a very fine clinic, just as fine a clinic as anywhere in America. Is there any great variation in their buying practices and yours at Charity?

Dr. ADRIANI. No; we always buy on bid, the lowest bidder.

Senator LONG. And they buy it about the same way you buy it?

Dr. ADRIANI. Yes; except that now the State has gone into central purchasing. They make a contract with a particular firm for a year to supply a particular drug. For instance, Demerol made by Winthrop (the trade name) is bought using the generic name neperagane. The patent has expired. Wyeth had the lowest bid on Meperidine so we buy this drug from Wyeth.

Senator LONG. Do I understand you to say that the State of Louisiana is not doing central purchasing for both you and the hospitals?

Dr. ADRIANI. No. Just for all the State hospitals.

Senator LONG. So the State is not doing central buying for all the State hospitals?

Dr. ADRIANI. They enter into a contract with a firm. They deliver a particular item to New Orleans. We pool all of our needs and we get a lower price that way.

Senator LONG. So to get better prices the State will buy for all of the State hospitals and ask for one bid so as to get the advantage of a big order?