

Dr. ADRIANI. That is right. They enter into a contract for 1 year. If our pharmacists need more aspirin, they will put in a requisition. The local jobber will deliver the item to Charity. It doesn't have to come from Baton Rouge, Shreveport or other places.

But in order to save money we have a restricted formulary. There are certain drugs that are not in it. You mentioned Darvon. You could have taken this stuff—APC—and it would have done you as much good. But Darvon is still on patent. You pay a lot more for it than you do APC. We don't have it in our formulary. We found that this APC works just as well.

Senator LONG. In other words, you don't have it there because this product works just as well?

Dr. ADRIANI. That is right. When we have a request for a product, and the pharmacy committee feels it is not a justifiable request, we turn it down, and it doesn't get into the books. The doctor uses whatever is in this book.

Senator LONG. What if there are complaints by somebody who thinks that a particular drug should be in the book?

Dr. ADRIANI. They write a letter to the pharmacist. We have a meeting of the pharmacy committee. If the committee feels the request is justified, we will let him use the drug in his area. There may be a drug that we don't have that a patient has to have. We get a special request and buy it. We okay such drugs on an ad hoc basis.

Senator LONG. But the private hospitals use similar buying practices, do they not?

Dr. ADRIANI. They have one problem in the State hospitals we do not have. We have a full time staff and they have no interest in anything except the patients. If a doctor looks in the book and sees meprobamate he says okay. He doesn't care whether it is made by Wyeth or Wallace. In a private hospital the doctor would say, "I want Equanil," and he will specify and get that because his patient is a private patient.

And the sister or the superintendent of the hospital has to give it to him. But they put the extra cost on the patient's bill. So it is no "skin off the back" of the administrator. Somebody is paying for the patient. But here, if we don't have Equanil, no one is going to holler. Meprobamate is meprobamate.

Senator LONG. But if the State is paying for it—your attitude is, we know that it is not a bit better than the other firm's product, and we are not going to pay more than the low bid?

Dr. ADRIANI. This is what we do. We have a pharmacy committee. It is made up of visiting staff members. I am on that committee. And we look at an item and say accept it or we defer action. If a drug is good the minute it comes out we list it in the book. We know something about drugs.

I advocate in my statement that the policing can be done by the medical profession itself, it can be done at the local level.

Senator LONG. Did you say it can be done at the local level or cannot be done at the local level?

Dr. ADRIANI. It can be. We do it on a local level in our hospital.

Senator LONG. And you are in favor of it being policed at the local level?