

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1969

UNITED STATES SENATE,
MONOPOLY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10:05 a.m., in room 318, Old Senate Office Building, Senator Gaylord Nelson (chairman of the subcommittee), presiding.

Present: Senators Nelson, Javits, and Dole.

Also present: Chester H. Smith, staff director and general counsel; Benjamin Gordon, staff economist; Elaine C. Dye, clerical assistant; and James P. Duffy III, minority counsel.

Senator NELSON. The subcommittee will open its hearings. We are pleased today to welcome Dr. Margaret Mead. Senator Javits, Dr. Mead is a very distinguished constituent of yours, and I know that you wish to welcome her here today.

Senator JAVITS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just wish to note that we all know Dr. Mead as one of the most distinguished anthropologists in our country. New York has a very special interest in Dr. Mead as she is, I just wish to spread this on the record, the curator emeritus of ethnology, the Museum of Natural History which is in New York City. She is adjunct professor of anthropology at Columbia also of New York City, and chairman of the Department of Social Sciences at Fordham also New York City, and we naturally take great pride in her eminence and the tremendous contribution she makes to the Nation and the world through her scientific work in these very distinguished institutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator NELSON. Thank you, Senator Javits.

The committee welcomes you here today, Dr. Mead.

The question has been raised before this subcommittee by medical authorities that psychotropic drugs and especially tranquilizers are being overprescribed.

Dr. Fritz Freyhan of St. Vincent's Hospital of New York stated before this subcommittee that:

It is, of course, no secret that overuse of drugs, not just psychoactive drugs, represents a perplexing problem in contemporary medicine. Depending on orientation, bias and vested-interests, the blame tends to be ascribed to our culture, to professional attitudes and to the promotional influence of the commercial interests of the pharmaceutical industry.