

Another company has directly sponsored "Conversations in Medical Ethics" each year at our national conventions. This year's "Conversation" dealt with "Prolonging Life" and has been scheduled for similar presentations by 22 SAMA chapters across the country.

Pharmaceutical companies have contributed drugs to most local SAMA community health projects, and several companies are discussing with us further ways to aid in these areas of medical education and community health.

The Nigeria-Biafra medical relief program sponsored by the Standing Committee on International Health of SAMA has collected about \$75,000 worth of free pharmaceuticals from pharmaceutical firms and has made arrangements to have these distributed overseas.

It is clear from the incomplete information above that the pharmaceutical companies are quite active both in medical schools and in medical students organizations.

To present a broad but incomplete picture of the degree of pharmaceutical company activities related to medical students with limited preparation is difficult, to presume to present definitive testimony on student attitudes toward these activities, is almost impossible. I do so with trepidation, based only on extensive contacts with my fellow students, and with the recognition that there is the broadest diversity of opinion among medical students on this issue—as on all issues.

A small but growing and well-publicized minority of medical students are refusing certain gifts by pharmaceutical companies and returning them. Some feel that drug companies are trying to buy them, others that excessive costs for promotion and substantial profits by the pharmaceutical industry serve to cheat the consumer. And, finally, some feel that attacking the pharmaceutical industry is a successful way of confronting a decadent, bourgeoisie, capitalistic society.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Martin, if I may interrupt you at this point, would you perhaps give me an idea of the number of the small but growing minority that you speak of?

Mr. MARTIN. In numbers?

Mr. DUFFY. Would you tell me what percentage that might represent in terms of the total medical student population in this country?

Mr. MARTIN. I think a total of 100 and some students have returned gifts, the students of Western Reserve, Harvard, Columbia, and I think the University of Virginia, which was not included on this. So even assuming there about 200 or 150, you are talking I think about one-half of 1 percent, one-third of 1 percent. I do not think that—

Mr. DUFFY. Would you say there are 65,000 medical students?

Mr. MARTIN. I am sorry, 35,000 medical students and about 30,000 interns and residents.

Mr. DUFFY. Do you feel that fewer than 200 is the size of this minority?

Mr. MARTIN. Well, I do not feel it. It is a fact. There are fewer than 200 who have returned their bags.

Mr. DUFFY. Thank you.

Mr. MARTIN. The vast majority of students, as was just pointed out, however, do accept gratuities—not passively, but by requesting certain items or by picking up the equipment or books that they know are being distributed. And this is one of the clear things we found out from our survey: the fact that very rarely in most schools is this given away or jammed down the medical student's throat, but rather