

relationship with the best interests of the patient as a mutually understood and cooperative goal.

I have tried, as objectively as possible, to summarize our knowledge and feelings in the areas about which you have requested us to testify.

The Student American Medical Association is greatly concerned with the basic problems and issues which confront our profession and society in regard to health care. However, we would not be so arrogant as to presume we had a simple explanation, analysis, or solutions for these complex problems.

I know of no medical student who is well-informed enough especially in the face of the enormous amount of expert testimony you have heard, to take an unyielding stand on either side of the incredibly complex issues your committee is investigating. Nonetheless, our stands on specific and definable issues are clear.

SAMA stands firmly behind obtaining the highest quality drugs at the lowest consumer costs and endorses only those promotional practices that either contribute to the knowledge of the physician or students or benefit the health care recipient.

SAMA also fully supports the development of a comprehensive drug compendium which includes generic as well as brand name cross references and includes the wholesale price of each drug for the purpose of comparison by physicians.

We also support an increase in the screening and control facilities administered by the Food and Drug Administration to insure increased unbiased evaluation of new drugs.

The Student American Medical Association recognizes that there have been abuses in the drug industry, as well as in our own profession, in regard to pharmaceutical promotion. SAMA encourages and supports the work of this committee to elucidate more fully the specific instances of these abuses. We also strongly feel that these abuses are not representative of the entire pharmaceutical industry nor the medical profession and that violations should clearly be prosecuted under existing laws and regulations. However, we feel that deliberate publicity which seeks to indict the entire drug industry or medical profession is irresponsible and not in the best interests of the American people.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I sincerely hope that our efforts have been of some value. I assure you that any further information SAMA obtains through the coming months will be readily made available if you feel it would be helpful.

Senator NELSON. I want to thank you very much, Mr. Martin, for your very thoughtful testimony. We appreciate your taking the time to come before the committee today.

Senator DOLE. Mr. Chairman, I apologize first for the two Kansans being here and I being absent. I have three meetings going on at the same time. They are all on the same floor. I am not certain I have done justice to any. But I have read the statement, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Hewitt has made no statement. Have you made any statement?

Mr. HEWITT. No.

Senator DOLE. You are the lucky one.

Mr. HEWITT. Yes.

Senator DOLE. All right. But at any rate it is an excellent statement and I certainly appreciate your taking time to come to Washington, I understand, at your own request; is that correct?