

Ideally, no situation should be allowed to exist in which scientific principle and financial gain can be confused.

SUMMATION

In the course of my statements, I have presented information which demonstrates that medical students, the future drug prescribers, are the prime target for company expenditures. Pharmacy students, who will soon become an integral part of the drug distribution system, are also courted by the drug companies.

The dental profession receives only token recognition, while the nursing profession is completely ignored. If these programs were based upon a concern for improving the health of the American people, a more equitable distribution of financial support would certainly be expected.

I believe that any program which continues to spend money in the manner described in this text is improper. Whether the relationship created involves an entire industry or a single company, if it is contradictory to the goal of educated, rational delivery of health care, it must be avoided.

I see no reason why American drug users should finance luxuries for health science students; this, in effect, represents payment "before the fact" for our drug prescription habits, an idea unacceptable to me.

Recent criticism of this committee and some of my fellow professionals who have testified before it claims that the dirty wash of the industry and the profession has been hung in view of the entire country. That this should be detrimental is based on the reasoning that the public is losing faith in the profession and the industry.

Should this break in faith occur, the natural recourse, it is alleged, will be through the legislative bodies of this country. Once legislation has been enacted, certainly the possibility exists that individuals will no longer be able to seek their own solutions to this problem. I take a different view.

I believe the American public finds more necessity for reliance on its legislative system when full awareness of the problem has not been reached. Confidence in the competence of the health system will be increased when we demonstrate to them that many of us, in the health sciences and in industry, recognize the failings of the present system and show that we are searching for ways to rectify the situation.

As I have pointed out, industry promotional practices will continue only so long as the desired result is achieved and the medical profession continues to accept and be swayed by these practices. It is, therefore, incumbent upon me and my fellow professionals concerned with this problem to bring it to the attention of the health care community. It is only through such a mechanism that we can formulate a uniform code of medical ethics and assume a responsible role in our relationship to the pharmaceutical industry.

CONCLUSION

In the beginning of my statement, I used the word "influence" when I spoke of the relationship which the pharmaceutical industry's involvement in education creates. The word "influence" was chosen specifically because it carries no evaluation of a positive or negative