

The whole point is that we were completely ignorant of the significance of accepting these items at the time we accepted them. And for my part, I was very reluctant to have to return an item I had requested. It is certainly an inconsistent position. But that is the position I found myself in when my eyes opened, and I could only deal with it.

Senator DOLE. Do you feel you have been unduly influenced by accepting any of these things?

Mr. NATHAN. I feel I might have been if I had not been made aware of the implications involved. I think by returning them I have made so definite a gesture that it will not be possible to influence me very easily in this way in the future.

Senator DOLE. I would ask the same question of all of you as a matter of information. I assume there are 125 rather intelligent young men or young ladies in your class, and I would hope that the black bag is not going to influence you in what products you use several years hence. I am not, again, certain whether it is a good practice.

I remember in law school, I think I received a law book or two, but I understand from Mr. Gordon this is a different situation. I cannot see much difference, frankly. I probably should not have taken the book, but I did not buy all the books these people printed. I did not want to read any more books than I had to at that point.

Mr. SPIEGEL. There is a clear difference, though. The difference is if you were influenced by a law publisher, then you can make the decision whether you want to spend your money on their law books or not. We make the decision about whether other people should spend their money. And my own feeling is that I am, as well as being concerned about being influenced, I am concerned about the fact that I think it is improper for people to pay in this indirect manner for me to get something.

If they are going to pay for medical services, that is fine. But I just do not think it is fair to take their money.

Senator DOLE. This is the basic question, no doubt about it, whether this practice should continue, because, unquestionably, somebody is going to pay for it. I mean, just to spend money, unless it is the Government—we do not have to pay for Government money, but private industry must pass the cost along. And I think you are right; this is a basic question, one that we are concerned about.

But I would also say in deference to all 125 in the class of 1971, that I would assume that you are very intelligent young men, and this may have little, if any, effect on anyone.

Mr. NATHAN. I think this had a considerable effect. I would like to spell out the ways a little later on, but I could just mention, as Senator Nelson brought up several times today, somebody is prescribing Panalba, quite a few people.

Senator DOLE. Not to a judge in Wisconsin. I think there has been a judge in Wisconsin who still thinks it may have some merit.

Senator NELSON. Michigan.

Senator DOLE. Michigan; yes.

Mr. NATHAN. Even so, I think that it is programs like this in medical school, and their continuation into the years when a doctor is prescribing that has caused the situation to develop as Senator Nelson has described. I think that it is a very real influence.