

not just events having to do with drug evaluations or drug news. Is this not true?

Dr. TALBOTT. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. So actually, what we are doing is faulting, perhaps, your format and your journal policies more than we are in any specific reference here whether you carried this particular story in editorial form or went and solicited a publishable manuscript, are we not?

Dr. TALBOTT. Yes; and one other factor. That is when we are faced with a plethora of A-1 scientific publications, there is less tendency to go out and solicit because there is absolutely no need. We are almost to the point where we are limited by space and reject some unquestionably A-1 manuscripts. It is not a question of shortage of material; it is a question of a great surplus.

Senator HATFIELD. I would be prone to agree with the chairman, I reiterate, in saying that the format should be a broader format. But I would say that point would be made purely on the basis of your format rather than in any specific reference as to whether you were negligent or not negligent or fully responsible or not fully responsible in reporting this particular finding on this particular subject. I would address myself to the general format that you follow in the journal.

Senator DOLE. Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify, because we have probably spent enough time on whether or not it has been rejected and when.

I refer to the testimony of Dr. Kunin before this committee on May 7. Of course, at that time, I think it was Dr. Inglefinger who was quoted as saying as much as I regret taking a paper that has been rejected by JAMA, I am delighted to take this one, the New England Journal.

To make sure the record is perfectly clear, you have never heard from Dr. Kunin since your letter of May 19.

Dr. TALBOTT. May 19. In response to his letter to me—he wrote to me on May 12. I responded on May 19.

Senator DOLE. I assume you were notified that you were rejected or at least you had notice of your alleged rejection because of his testimony before this committee?

Dr. TALBOTT. This was a public press release. This was no communication by mail directly to me.

Senator DOLE. Dr. Kunin indicates that he was receiving one. Would someone else maybe have had some correspondence with you, maybe on the staff? Could there have been a rejection by that person?

Dr. TALBOTT. We have reviewed the files very carefully, sir, on two occasions. There is no communication on this subject after the two letters from the National Research Council until we received the communication from Dr. Kunin. Nor have I received anything from other members of the committee except Dr. Kunin.

(The article follows:)

[From the Washington Post, May 12, 1969]

AMA DENIES REFUSING TO PRINT ATTACK ON COMBINATION DRUGS

(By Morton Mintz)

The editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association has denied a charge that the Journal refused to publish a "white paper" submitted by the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council.