

That is for July 25. It may have been published since then, however.

Here is a letter explaining the action of the Food and Drug Administration, dated July 3, 1969. It is five pages long. It comments on the conclusions the FDA reached concerning novobiocin and tetracycline, calcium novocytine, and so forth, which were published in the Federal Register of May 15, 1969.

My question is, Has this letter of the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration dated July 3, been published in the AMA News? (The information follows:)

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
July 18, 1969.

HON. HERBERT LEY, M.D.
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER: In a speech delivered before the American College of Legal Medicine on July 13, 1969, you stated that: "We have discussed with AMA representatives the desirability of having the AMA News present a better balance of significant issues in the drug area. * * *"

In this connection would you please let me know in some detail what the Food and Drug Administration has done to try to involve the AMA in a balanced presentation of information on drugs. In addition, I am interested in ascertaining what the AMA has done in this respect, especially on Panalba and other antibiotic combinations.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

GAYLORD NELSON,
Chairman, Monopoly Subcommittee.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
Washington, D.C., July 25, 1969.

HON. GAYLORD NELSON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON: Thank you for your letter of July 18 concerning our efforts to elicit a broader and more balanced presentation of significant drug issues by American Medical Association publications.

Our responsibility under the law, as you know, is to keep the medical profession and the public constantly informed of our findings and actions on drugs as a result of our own studies and those of our expert advisers. To fulfill this responsibility, we must depend on the support and cooperation not only of the news media but of the medical journals which directly reach the doctors.

The Journal of the American Medical Association and the American Medical News (formerly the AMA News), as the official voices of the AMA, are key media of professional communications. They serve as vitally important communicators in providing physicians with information on the latest developments in the medical and drug areas.

This is why we have tried, and continue to try to convince AMA officials and editorial representatives of the two AMA publications of the desirability of more comprehensive coverage of the drug information which we are attempting to communicate to the medical profession.

During the past six months, for example, our press staff has met several times with members of the American Medical News editorial staff to discuss ways in which we believe the News could help the medical profession by reporting new information of importance to doctors.

As one possible method of accomplishing this aim, we suggested that the News publish at least a summary of the National Academy of Sciences efficacy reports on the more important drugs which the Academy studies, and on which the FDA acted.

We realize the space limitations confronting the American Medical News, as well as other publications. But we have told the publication's representatives that we believe the boiled-down version of our press releases is inadequate in