

Senator NELSON. You are operating under the law, and as I stated, Uncle Sam is doing very well under it, and so are the private companies.

I do think it is worthwhile taking a look at giving the foreign countries a little more information. At least the government over there could understand the difference in the pricing structure, and it might be very helpful to them.

Mr. DWINELL. Mr. Chairman, the only point I would make there, even though our client countries are lesser developed and undeveloped countries, my own experience in visiting some of them is that they are not completely unsophisticated countries. Communications today, interchange of information, the accessibility of information on a worldwide basis is available at least to the officials of governments of lesser developed countries.

Senator NELSON. We have a hard time getting our own medical community to prescribe rationally and they cannot do it over here.

The testimony here from the experts continually is that all of these countries around the world are relying upon the United States and its expertise. They are very limited. You can be a fine doctor practicing in a developing country and if you are, I might say you are probably ten times as busy as it is conceivable to be here.

No one can keep up on drugs. We have trouble with our own physicians keeping up on drugs. I think these exotic prices are so exotic that the foreign countries ought to be informed. And we are buying them all of the time.

I think we might find they would be amazed. They might even think of going back to the finished product and letting them see what they can buy.

Take prednisone running from \$17.90 per hundred to the pharmacist at the time of our hearing, to 59 cents a hundred, with the Medical Letter saying they are all equivalent.

So I do not know how you expect those poor souls over there to make a better judgment than was being made in this country.

I guess the minority counsel has a question.

Mr. JONES. One brief question. Could you give me the total sales volume of the drug sales financed by AID in the last 2 years?

Mr. DWINELL. That was in the statement, but I may have skipped it—in the commodity import program, pharmaceuticals were valued at \$15.6 million in fiscal year 1969, a reduction from \$18.7 million in fiscal year 1968.

Mr. JONES. I understand each year these sales amount to less than 3 percent of the total commodity import loan program.

Mr. DWINELL. Yes; that would be even less than 2 percent, because our total pharmaceutical procurement, including the technical assistance portion, was 2 percent in 1969 and 2.7 percent in 1968.

So that the CIP, as we call it, would have been less than 2 percent in 1969, last year.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would simply like to state it is my understanding that the questions raised today imply no criticism whatsoever of the commodity import loan program in general, and pertain only to the small fraction of that program which relates to pharmaceutical sales.

Senator NELSON. There has been no testimony today on any matter other than pharmaceuticals, has there?