

Senator NELSON. You say they cannot get the drug in the formulary unless they have some evidence from the literature. What do you mean by that?

Colonel FAIRCHILD. They have to have some evidence, sir.

Senator NELSON. Well, would the evidence be controlled studies?

Colonel FAIRCHILD. Alleged controlled studies, that as time goes on perhaps they find that they are not as controlled as the original—

Senator NELSON. These drugs that the Medical Letter and the National Academy of Sciences were commenting on did not have any controlled studies that demonstrated their superiority. The fixed combination antibiotics, the best known of which was Panalba, are good examples. The studies which the manufacturer of Panalba performed, or had contracted for, simply showed that the ingredients of the mixture tetracycline and novobiocin were not synergistic, were not additive, but were actually antagonistic. And yet this drug was one of the most widely prescribed drugs in this country. So, when it was included in the hospital formulary, there had not been any controlled studies to demonstrate its superiority to tetracycline alone.

Now, how would that particular drug get on the formulary if such an action is based upon controlled studies and when the controlled studies that were done by the company did not support the claims that were made for it? I think that including it in a formulary and using it extensively is due to the advertising and promotion.

Colonel FAIRCHILD. I was not on the board at Walter Reed at the time Panalba was brought in. I was on the board when it was taken out, so I cannot make a statement as to what claims were made for Panalba.

I do know that when a request is made of my board, that request must include justification for that drug over known drugs, and particularly if that drug is a more expensive drug than the known drugs. So, you must speak to this and convince the committee that in fact they need it, there is justification for the use of it.

Mr. GORDON. May I interrupt just a moment? You mentioned sulfisoxazole a few moments ago. That drug is in the USP and we were not discussing that particular drug, isn't that correct?

Colonel FAIRCHILD. I was just bringing this up as an example of my own personal experience with a drug before it was on the market.

Senator NELSON. Sulfisoxazole was included in the U.S. Pharmacopeia after that?

Colonel FAIRCHILD. Yes. Back in 1943, I think it was.

Senator NELSON. Let us see. I suppose we have covered a fair amount of what follows.

I had some questions, Admiral, on page 10. Would you want to start reading there, 10 and 11, at the top.

"Pure, safe and therapeutically effective drugs".

Admiral ETTER. It starts on page 9.

Senator NELSON. Yes, go ahead.

Admiral ETTER. In the preparation of medical specifications, every effort is made to delineate the essential needs of the Government in an effort to procure pure, safe, and therapeutically effective drug products, yet maximizing efforts to seek competitive procurement.