

Senator NELSON. In the material you sent us in April, the data indicates that some considerable amount is still being spent on drugs which the AMA Council on Drugs and/or the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences regard as irrational and not recommended—Ornade and Darvon Compound for example—Ornade almost a million dollars and Darvon Compound \$850,000—Dimetapp Extendtabs \$670,000 and Bendectin almost a half million dollars—are we correct in that, that either the AMA Council on Drugs itself or the NAS/NRC regard them as irrational combinations? Is there a reason for using those?

General HAYES. Well, I would like to quote to you from a Jan. 18, 1972 minutes of the Therapeutic Agents Board Meeting at the Valley Forge Hospital. I will give this for the record also, but I will just take this one part.¹ This is paragraph "h" under paragraph (6).

"Discussion of Darvon Compound-65 (deleted by depot as a standard item)—This is one of the biggest volume items in Pharmacy. Plain Darvon, 65 mg., does not have the same acceptance with either physician or patient—preference is approximately 10-1 in favor of D.C.-65. It was unanimously agreed by Board members to continue stockage of this items as a non-standard item. Through Department Chiefs, a physician/patient education program will be initiated with the aim of reducing requests for this item."

I think that more or less gets at the heart of the problem of a number of these drugs, that they have been well accepted both by the physician and by the patients, even though the fundamental statement that you quoted from the AMA and also the Research Council findings indicate that they do not have a great deal of advantage over some other substances.

Senator NELSON. We are talking about local procurement, is that right?

General HAYES. This would be now local procurement, because we have deleted this item, put it at the limited standard and it's being deleted out of the system.

Senator NELSON. But that report you were just reading from is from where?

General HAYES. This is from the Valley Forge General Hospital at Phoenixville, Pa., and it shows the problem of an individual hospital against this kind of thing and how they are trying to meet it. They are both stocking while they are trying to educate people to recognize that there are other ways to get the same result. But as they state very well, it is a matter of both the patient and physician education.

Senator NELSON. This is the same problem over the years with all the fixed combination anti-infectives, I take it.

General HAYES. Essentially.

Colonel LINDSEY. Sir, there has been a sharp drop in the number of the fixed combinations that are in our catalog. The last issue of our catalog was published in October 1971 and since then, through the change bulletins, about one-third of all the fixed combination preparations in the catalog have been deleted or gone on limited standard

¹ See Appendix IV, p. 8885.