

It has crept into the literature. I regret that it has even crept into some of the comments by eminent scientists in our field who tend to use this euphemism without identifying anyone.

Mr. GORDON. Well, is it possible for you to send a letter to the academy members to find out exactly what evidence they have on this particular subject, and perhaps submit it to the Committee for our records?

Dr. APPLE. Yes, it is possible. We would be glad to do it. We would like to know who they are as well as the committee does. Yes, we will do it if you wish.

Mr. GORDON. Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Please go ahead.

Dr. FELDMANN. I would simply add to Dr. Apple's statement that we would welcome having the identity of these firms brought out for us, because if we were aware of them, the association would feel it is incumbent upon us to make pharmacists aware of them; that was the purpose of my exhibit A in this testimony, where I showed that in the past, going back to 1960 when there was a problem of this nature and the association became aware of it, we took the action necessary to make pharmacists aware of it also.

Senator NELSON. I suspect you will not find any evidence. We have been taking testimony for 7 years on this question, and those who make that kind of a criticism have yet in 7 years to come up with any specific evidence. So I think reasonable persons can conclude that it is a propaganda campaign based on no substance whatsoever.

Dr. APPLE. Well, Mr. Chairman, you asked the question at the February 1 hearings at the Subcommittee on Health from Dr. Cavallito. I do not know if you received any response to that yet.

Senator NELSON. No, we have not. We have asked questions of some of these people that are 7 years old and we have not gotten a response yet, though they promised that they would give us one. I know the mail is running slow, but—

Dr. FELDMANN. I will continue.

Such implications and allegations appear to run contrary to information available to us from other sources. And these are the implications and allegations made by the DPSC spokesmen. Moreover, because of their very serious nature, these assertions have demanded our attention and investigation.

It is our position that such charges should not be made, such inferences should not be drawn, unless factual experience will, in fact support them; and, if indeed there is factual evidence to support such statements, then it is also our belief that protection of the public health demands that such information be made publicly available to the health professions in order that appropriate steps can be taken to avoid the distribution, the prescribing, and the dispensing of hazardous or ineffective drug products.

In our effort to analyze this subject, we have considered two possibilities: Either that the existing standards and specifications may not be generally adequate; or that the existing standards and specifications, while being adequate, are not being adequately enforced.