

Mr. HARDING. The patient demands the drug he has been getting. It is identified as such.

By the way, I might add one other statement. All drugs have a generic name. The brand name is only the name the company has attached to it. When only one company manufactures a drug that is still generic purchasing. If someone else comes along——

Senator NELSON. I understand that. I wanted to be sure we weren't talking only about a generic manufacturer v. a brand name.

Mr. GORDON. Just one question.

Is it possible within a specified time, let's say 6 months, to bring that 17 percent bought on a competitive basis up to 25 percent?

Mr. HARDING. I would say on that, sir, yes, if there is enough competition in the sole source drugs or also if there are enough of the generic products at high enough cost go into the generic competition.

Mr. COOK. It is possible. I can't tell you whether it will be 25 or something less than that or greater than that. One of the things we do know, in quite recent times there have been a number of drugs previously patent protected, on which the patents have expired and the number of firms obtaining NDAs' to make these drugs have been substantial within the last 2 or 3 months.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

The hearings will open again tomorrow with Dr. Edwards.

[Whereupon, at 12:00 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 10:10 a.m., Wednesday, March 6, 1974.]