

it was" even at that late date in February 1975. My interpretation of that is simply that some people are too busy to read their mail. While I can certainly understand and sympathize with that; it is hardly a reason to attack the DRB for being secretive.

Other complaints included a letter dated November 25 from Mr. Stetler of PMA to Mr. Trexler of DRB, with copies to Dr. Hussey and me, objecting that the language of the resolution was ambiguous and that the final form had been changed from that emanating from our meeting of 26 September. I think Mr. Stetler wasn't at the 25th of October meeting, and simply wasn't aware of the change in wording there. Other announcements appeared in various publications which seemed oversimplifications of the DRB position.

The CHAIRMAN. I am just puzzled by this statement that Mr. Stetler did not attend the 25 October meeting. Mr. Stetler is not a member of the Board, is he?

Dr. PITTMAN. No, he is not. The 18-member Board meets at the NAS, and around the edge of the room are perhaps an equal number or more liaison representatives. They are generally invited. They are from the APhA, the PMA and there is an AMA liaison member, and one from the American College of Physicians, and a number of other organizations.

The CHAIRMAN. And all these organizations have some representative that attends the meeting of the Board?

Dr. PITTMAN. As liaison members.

The CHAIRMAN. What does liaison member mean?

Dr. PITTMAN. They cannot vote.

The CHAIRMAN. They can participate in the discussion?

Dr. PITTMAN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. So they volunteer?

Dr. PITTMAN. They volunteer, and they are generally recognized.

The CHAIRMAN. But are there—I missed from your little colloquy with Mr. Gordon earlier—are there public representatives there, public liaison or something? What would happen, to take a well-known name, if Ralph Nader said, well, you have all these companies, I would like to sit here representing the public?

Dr. PITTMAN. I can't speak of course officially for what might be said, but I would imagine he would be welcome.

The CHAIRMAN. So this is just an ad hoc policy of the Board that they have invited liaison representatives?

Dr. PITTMAN. They encourage people who are interested in the item under discussion to appear. In one instance that we will come to in a few minutes the AMA people wanted to come to a later meeting to discuss this, it was not on the agenda of the March 14 meeting, and they were discouraged from coming, but came anyhow, and were permitted to attend.

Mr. GORDON. They were gate crashers, were they not?

Dr. PITTMAN. Yes.

An attachment to Mr. Stetler's letter of November 25 detailed objections to the resolution and contained the following paragraph:

Equally plausible would be an interpretation of paragraph 5 (of the resolution) to require that all physician's prescription forms contain two boxes, one labeled "Substitution Authorized", the other labeled "Do Not Substitute", with the physician required to initial one of the boxes in order to make the prescription valid.