

antisubstitution laws of the States repealed or amended, or at least they didn't so state.

There is a lot more detail to this that is pretty boring, frankly. But for the record I would like to have the opportunity to submit it.

The CHAIRMAN. You may submit whatever you wish for the record on that point.

Mr. STETLER. On Maximum Allowable Cost, the PMA submitted comments on this proposal in very extensive detail on February 14—

The CHAIRMAN. May I interrupt just 1 minute. If there is any difference or further elaboration that Dr. Pittman would like to make in the record along with your statement, the record will be open. And if you wish to respond to it, you may.

Mr. STETLER. On that, incidentally, we are discussing an action of the Drug Research Board. I think it might be appropriate to ask the Chairman of the Drug Research Board what happened. Dr. Pittman's views on this issue have been well known.

On occasion they have been minority views on the Drug Research Board. We are talking about an action of the Drug Research Board. I would like to request the committee to ask the Drug Research Board, through its Chairman, if its action needs clarification that it be submitted.

Incidentally, if we have differences of opinion on this, everything that went on, on September 26, October 25, and March 14 is on tape, if anybody would really like to hear the conversation. At the March 14 meeting every member of the Drug Research Board was polled to ask him what he meant when he voted for the October 25 resolution. You don't have to take my word or Dr. Pittman's, it is right there on tape for anybody to listen to it.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you suppose that all of that discussion on tape would be clearer than that clarifying amendment that you are talking about?

Mr. STETLER. That clarifying amendment covers what the members said when they were asked what they meant when they voted for the October 25 resolution, and especially whether they meant to repeal the State antisubstitution laws. Now, what they actually said in detail, is on the tapes.

The CHAIRMAN. I have a letter here from Dr. Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences and the press release issued by that organization. Both will be printed in the appropriate place in the record. Dr. Handler said: "Last month the National Research Council's Drug Research Board adopted a resolution concerning drug substitution laws. Briefly, the resolution urges that a physician should be required to give to, or explicitly withhold from, the pharmacist the option of substituting one brand of drug he prescribes for another brand of the same drug—an option which could, in many cases, provide the same treatment at lower cost. I am enclosing a copy of the Academy's press release on the subject," and so forth.

I would ask that the letter from Dr. Handler, as well as the release, be printed in the record.