

Can you tell us something about that survey? I presume—I notice that the source that you give is, "Executive Overview: Public Opinion on Maximum Allowable Costs," findings based on a national survey conducted by Decision Making Information, Santa Ana, Calif.

Mr. STETLER. The study was paid for by the G. D. Searle Co.

Mr. GORDON. Here is a copy of the study on the cover of which it states that it is prepared by G. D. Searle & Co., and Decision Making Information prepared for the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. Now—

Mr. STETLER. I gather the paper you had was prepared for us, because the study wasn't prepared for us.

Mr. GORDON. "Executive Overview of Public Opinion on Maximum Allowable Costs."

Mr. STETLER. The paper you have is probably prepared for us, but the study itself was not.

Mr. BRENNAN. The study was done by DMG.

Mr. STETLER. I didn't even know the study was undertaken until after the fact. I don't care what the paper says, the fact is that it was not prepared for us.

Mr. BRENNAN. What you have in front of you is an excerpt from the study, but not the study itself.

Mr. GORDON. So the excerpt was prepared by G. D. Searle, but the whole study was paid for by Searle?

Mr. STETLER. What we quoted in our submission was an excerpt from the study, the report itself, from that independent survey outfit, and the study was paid for and initiated by G. D. Searle & Co.

Mr. BRENNAN. Our excerpt correctly reflects those particular questions asked by the company.

Mr. GORDON. On page 14 of that statement—I just want to bring something else to your attention—you quote Dr. Charles Edwards:

In 1970, Dr. Charles C. Edwards, then-Commissioner of the FDA, warned that: "It has become increasingly apparent that drug products which purport to be equivalent and which may satisfy chemical and other analytical tests of equivalence, may not be therapeutically equivalent,"

and so forth and so on. In 1974, however, Senator Nelson asked the question of Dr. Edwards as follows:

The industry itself keeps raising the question about the terrible problem of bioavailability potential and role and so forth. Just what do you think about the issue of bioavailability that continues to be raised respecting assurances of comparability of drugs?

And Dr. Edwards answered: "Mr. Chairman, I have said from the very beginning that I thought that bioavailability or equivalency as it relates to our pricing policy has no relevance. I think it is being used more or less as a smoke screen by those who prefer not to have a pricing policy," and so on and so forth.

Now, the 1974 statements seems to be at variance with the 1970 statement. Wouldn't you think that quoting the 1974, a later statement, would be more appropriate?

Mr. STETLER. I don't think they are necessarily in conflict. In 1974, Dr. Edwards answered a specific question as to whether he thought there is any relevance between the bioavailability problem and a pro-