

Dr. GODDARD. Well, I can't argue with the fact that they were sold. I don't have any information on that point. I assume that that being the case—

Mr. GALLAGHER. Why would you not want to ingest those products?

Dr. GODDARD. The standard plate counts were 2.7, 1.9, and 2.1 million. They were precooked products and they probably were recontaminated by virus of these high standard plate counts and the presence of positive coliform organisms.

Mr. GALLAGHER. What affect would that have on a human consuming those?

Dr. GODDARD. Mr. Gallagher, this is one of the areas where you can't predict the affect. The probabilities are higher that the person will suffer some sort of gastrointestinal disease when a product has been contaminated to this extent.

Of course, there are variables. One, is the product reheated? If so, for how long and at what temperature? Were there any staphylococcus organisms there? We don't know.

The greatest area of underreporting of diseases in this country—and I speak as having served as Chief of the Communicable Disease Center—is gastrointestinal illness. Everybody in this room can recall one or two bouts in the last 12 months of this illness, whose origin is not known. We estimated, when I was at CDC, that, for example taking, *Salmonella* infections, for every case reported to the Communicable Disease Center there were probably a hundred that weren't reported. This was based on some special surveys.

If this were the case, in reality we would have over 2 million *Salmonella* infections a year in this country alone. So we are dealing with an iceberg phenomenon. We don't know. There isn't a direct cause and effect relationship established here. It's just bad business to put this kind of product into the marketplace. I have to take your word that that was what was done.

Mr. WYDLER. If I may interrupt, who sold these items? Did the manufacturer sell them?

Dr. GODDARD. I don't know.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. DSA will testify and all this will be brought out. I wanted to take advantage of Dr. Goddard's medical expertise to tell us what this meant.

Mr. WYDLER. The thrust of my question—all I was trying to establish was whether these were in the possession of some third party who sold them, or whether it was actually the Morton Frozen Food Division that did this.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Doctor, do you think some improvement in our governmental structure can be made to eliminate this kind of thing from happening? When DSA inspectors or investigators make these findings, what can we do to prevent that product from reaching commercial channels or being sold through company channels, or being consumed by anyone?

Dr. GODDARD. I believe some of the steps I outlined today will help assure that these things don't happen. Likewise, the passage in the last session of Congress of the meat bill which places this kind of product under the U.S. Department of Agriculture continuous inspection program will help. This, together with the strengthened coordination