

Mr. McNEIL: I think Dr. Wightman already has answered that question. There must be this continued surveillance and the stamp of approval could not be given unless it was known that this testing was constant.

Mr. MACKASEY: On the same point, this sentence does say at the discretion of the pharmacist which, of course, is not quite the same as what Dr. Willoughby said, where a reputable druggist will check with his doctor and obtain permission. Is there anything in the law now that makes it mandatory for a druggist to check with the doctor in case of a substitution?

Mr. WIGHTMAN: Not in Alberta.

Mr. MACKASEY: Do you think a desirable addition to our laws would be that druggists not be permitted to substitute any portion of the compound or prescription without an opinion of the doctor?

Mr. McNEIL: Yes. I know that the physicians—and, I suppose I should not speak for the pharmacists—would welcome this.

Mr. SLOGAN: What is the situation in Alberta when a druggist, without consulting a medical man, substitutes a prescription, as a result of which there is a reaction in the patient and a law suit brought? Is not the responsibility placed on the shoulders of the pharmacist?

Mr. McNEIL: Yes, we have been advised that the pharmacist is liable. He must be very careful. I have been told that the pharmacist, in all probability, would take only a drug which he feels is very safe. He is apt to take a drug which he considers safer and he will not necessarily use the cheaper and inexpensive drug as a substitution.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Mr. Chairman, I think I am away out in left field. I wanted to put a question in respect of potency and toxicity, which was brought up initially by Dr. Slogan. However, we got on this other subject of samples and then carried on from there.

May I revert to this matter and ask Dr. Wightman if he does not consider adequate the policy which we had outlined to us here at the last meeting by Dr. Morrell, when he said that no drug is allowed to be sold in Canada without a complete investigation by the department either through its own facilities or, at least, through information supplied from reliable sources which has been presented to the department by the company offering the drug for sale?

I think I, personally, should say at this time that our trip to Montreal was extremely interesting in respect of that subject. There may be smaller companies which are not quite so proficient in their tests. But, after our visit and watching the production of these drugs and the tests they undergo in these reliable firms I do not think we have any fear of any kind in respect of possible toxicity or anything but the highest potency in the drugs produced. I would like to ask again if you do not feel that these precautions are adequate at the present time?

Mr. WIGHTMAN: They are in respect of reputable firms. But, there are many firms which are producing drugs on a very much less satisfactory basis, and the question which keeps coming up is that one can buy drugs cheaply if one wishes, as a result of which we must make sure that what we are saving in money is not made up by less care in the manufacture. This is a thing that frightens one.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Is it your feeling that some of these drugs are not up to the potency required?

Mr. WIGHTMAN: Oh, yes. However, it is not so much the matter of potency. There are variations in that. But, there is the question of the care of the manufacturer in the exclusion of minute amounts of toxic materials and the