

whether you had given notification of these hearings to that company or whether someone from that company had notified you of their intention to appear before this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I might say, Dr. Haidasz, that I did not want to officially write anyone until this committee had given me permission to do so, although I have received telephone calls from many manufacturers and associations.

No one from the William S. Merrell Company has telephoned or written to me, but it was the intention of your chairman to write letters to professional associations and manufacturers, professional people and research people indicating that we propose to call them at some future date in order to give them ample notice. I might say that the Merrell company was on my list of manufacturing companies to be notified. I did not include the complete list in this statement because of its length. If any members of this committee wish individuals called or companies notified other than those I have listed, I should be very pleased to have an indication in this regard.

Mr. RYNARD: Mr. Chairman, I am in agreement with Dr. Haidasz' suggestion that someone from the Merrell company be called, and I would also like to suggest that Dr. Fraser be called as soon as possible because of the fact he is an outstanding man in the genetics field.

As Dr. Haidasz has indicated, the thalidomide tragedy is the actual cause of the formation of this committee and in that regard I think someone from the Merrell company and Dr. Fraser should be called as quickly as possible.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make one other suggestion. You have suggested in your report that we call one or more general practitioners. I am wondering also about the many articles that have appeared in *Macleans'* Magazine and other places, and whether it would be advisable to call as well as one or more general practitioners, one or more paediatricians because of the fact children are involved.

The CHAIRMAN: That is exactly why Dr. W. W. Tidmarsh, Secretary of the Canadian Paediatric Society is to be called, and it is presumed that he will bring people with him who are specialists in this field.

Mr. HARLEY: I was pleased to hear Dr. Haidasz refer to the thalidomide question. I think it should be pointed out to the individuals of the company responsible for the introduction of thalidomide into Canada that it is not our intention in having them appear before us to place them on trial or to give them the opportunity of exonerating themselves, but for the purpose of providing this committee with information in respect of the handling of drugs of this type in order that some measure can be taken to prevent any possible further tragedy.

The second item upon which I should like to touch has reference to the statement in the House of Commons regarding pesticides. There is one aspect of this matter in respect of agriculture that has not been mentioned and which I think probably should be mentioned. That is the use of drugs for cattle, which is not really considered dangerous, but which gives rise to contamination through feeding or the use of chemicals for killing weeds and pests. I have reference to drugs and several antibiotics that are used for the purposes of fattening cattle. I think this is a very important aspect that should be considered thoroughly. It is my understanding that certain drugs are being injected into cattle before they are killed which are supposed to be meat tenderizers. This is another aspect which I think should be considered.

Mr. HAIASZ: I believe that one of our terms of reference covers a study of food additives especially in relation to baby foods.