

Dr. SHUTE: No. We are just trying to ward that off. We can see by the terms of this amendment that there are two obvious words in it, one being "person", which is not defined and could include physicians. The other dubious matter is the use of the word "advertisement" in section 2(a) of the bill. We would like that altered to "includes any representation made for gain or made for commercial purposes". We would also like to see section 3(1) altered to read "No person who is not a physician...". We would like to see such non-profit societies as the Cancer Society and our own freed from a charge of breaking this clause dealing with advertising. As far as I can see you do not say whether by "advertisement" you also intend to include the word "mentioning" and the word "discussing". It is possible here that "mentioning" or "discussing" would be advertising.

Hon. Mr. GRANT: Does your brother in Ottawa use vitamin E in treating patients?

Dr. SHUTE: As an obstetrician, the same as myself.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I am not a member of this committee but I am wondering whether there is anything in this bill that would prevent a person from buying vitamin E in the drugstores. I am wondering whether this should always be done under the instruction of a physician.

Dr. SHUTE: I think he can go in on his own and get it but I think it is undesirable. It should be under the instruction of a physician.

Hon. Mr. EULER: It might be harmful?

Dr. SHUTE: We have always stressed that point. On the other hand, there is this situation. In a certain section in Northern Ontario we know of just one physician who regularly prescribes vitamin E. There may be others but we know of only one. Let us say that a man three hundred miles away in that territory wants vitamin E and he can't get it from his physician. What shall he do? What are his rights? Surely he does not have to come to us for a prescription. Surely he can ask his druggist or his best friend about it. Surely he is not caught up in the knot which this legislature might tie.

Hon. Mr. GRANT: Is it always prescribed in tablet form?

Dr. SHUTE: We have given it to babies in drops. It is also used in capsule form.

Hon. Mr. PRATT: What protection has the public got other than through the medical profession? While you are stressing vitamin E, may this not also include other things that someone very enthusiastically may advocate, and may even advocate correctly?

Dr. SHUTE: That is quite true.

Hon. Mr. PRATT: But the public cannot judge.

Dr. SHUTE: That is quite true.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Could its use be harmful?

Dr. SHUTE: We think so in certain cases. I should like to emphasize that point, and we have emphasized that in the current issue of this bulletin. For instance, if a diabetic—and we mentioned this all across the country to the Canadian Press six years ago and it was published in many newspapers—takes vitamin E almost always his dosage of insulin is reduced. It may be reduced over the ensuing year to the point where he may require none. Within three days the dosage of insulin may be reduced. In other words, suddenly he is going to have an insulin reaction on a dose that he may have been taking for fifteen years.

Hon. Mr. GRANT: What about the taking of insulin with respect to vitamin E?