

TRANSCRIPT - SURGEON GENERAL'S (KOOB) AD HOC COMMITTEE ON

"NON-DENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF FLUORIDE," APRIL 18 - 19, 1983

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Vol. I, Day 1

Pages 1 - 281

Vol. II, Day 11

Pages 282 - 476

MEETING OF
THE FLUORIDE PANEL

ORIGINAL

DAY II

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Location: Bethesda, Maryland

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11656 more accurate representation of the views of this
11657 committee and I think it would be a very good idea to
11658 formulate whatever the conclusions are in a way that
11659 could not be used like what happened in that
11660 newspaper article.

11661 DR. KLEEREKOPER: One way to do that would
11662 be to say what a lot of us have said, that we regard
11663 dental fluorosis in the Stage III level as an adverse
11664 health effect and that is what the regulation has
11665 been aimed to prevent. That is really what we have
11666 done.

11667 DR. WALLACH: Not all of us are saying that
11668 age nine is a good cut-off point.

11669 DR. MARCUS: I understand that.

11670 DR. SHAPIRO: It is easier to equivocate
11671 around that than it is with what the committee that
11672 framed these options before us did. They said they
11673 couldn't choose between four and eight. I think we
11674 have made a better decision.

11675 DR. CARLOS: I think it might be well worth
11676 considering how you phrase the recommendation, the
11677 rationale for the recommendation very carefully in
11678 terms of potential adverse effect.

11679 The reason is that we have on record the
11680 Surgeon General, the American Medical Association,

11681 the American Dental Association all saying that there
11682 is no adverse health effect.

11683 I think, in the case of dental fluorosis,
11684 we can't find any data to the contrary; however, I
11685 certainly accept and I think most people do that
11686 there may well be and we just haven't found it yet
11687 and that would be true of the other things you are
11688 speaking of as well. It is potential.

11689 DR. MARCUS: I don't think that is the
11690 sense of the committee. I think that the sense of the
11691 committee is that the cosmetic effect represents an
11692 adverse health effect, that this is psychologically
11693 damaging. People walk around covering their mouths.

11694 DR. SHAPIRO: I think the Surgeon General
11695 left a big loophole, frankly, when he raised this
11696 cosmetic issue. I think he, in effect, was saying
11697 there is still some room for doubt as to whether what
11698 we are saying is the best really that can be said.

11699 DR. CARLOS: There is more study needed in
11700 the matter.

11701 DR. SHAPIRO: That is right and I would
11702 seize on that, expressing the concern of the
11703 committee that we don't have all the answers.

11704 DR. CARLOS: The concentration of research
11705 has really been around optimal levels.