

Closing Statement

At the outset of today's hearing, Johnson & Johnson specifically confirmed that they did not inform the FDA about the phantom recall.

J&J also admitted that they made a mistake in the way they handled the defective Motrin.

Nevertheless, the testimony today, combined with the testimony at our first hearing, indicates some very serious problems -- both with the way Johnson & Johnson viewed its responsibility to the public and with its day-to-day relationship with the FDA.

Mr. Weldon testified that J&J tries to work cooperatively with the FDA. On its face, that sounds positive. But there is often a thin line between "working cooperatively" and having a "cozy relationship."

The documents we have seen in this case indicate this line may have been crossed -- early and often.

But it is all too easy for J&J to say, "If the FDA had asked us to conduct a recall, we would have done it."

On the contrary, the evidence indicates J&J did everything it could to avoid a formal recall. In short, J&J tried to pull a fast one on the American public, but they got caught.

Judging from the Members' questions today, I think it is fair to say this is not the last word on this investigation. We look forward to full cooperation from J&J and the FDA as we move forward.

While I understand that the Justice Department has initiated a criminal investigation related to some of these matters, we are not aware of any reasons why our investigation should not move forward.

We intend to continue our investigation and interview some key witnesses.

Thank you.