

The Ghost Lobby and Other Mysteries of the Modern Physic— Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and New Labour

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Abstract

Throughout 2005 and 2006 I worked on my book about the campaign of a group of women against the Wyeth pharmaceutical company for the damaging effects of HRT. I wrote my essay *The Ghost Lobby* after I had published my book on HRT and almost immediately following the publication of the House of Commons Health Committee *Influence of the Pharmaceutical Industry*. Inevitably, I find myself in a very small minority when I write about the pharmaceutical industry and government. However, in this case, I was in a minority of one. While others saw the report as a swingeing indictment of Big Pharma, liberally set lose by New Labour, I saw it as a put up job aimed at exposing selected dirty laundry of Big Pharma so that the relationship between New labour and the pharmaceutical industry could advance in the areas of vaccine manufacture and the introduction of cognitive behaviour substances, the next big market for the industry. My essay looked at the relationship between parliament, government and the pharmaceutical industry. I chose Wyeth as the focus for the essay because, while writing my HRT book, I discovered that the government and the NHS had formed a partnership strategy for marketing and supporting sales of HRT whatever the adverse reactions.

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