Whether this is done by the FDA under the present structure or by some other system will require study. A suggestion that was made in 1972 before this Committee bears repetition. Congress should establish a committee of "blue-ribbon untouchables" similar to the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry previously active in the American Medical Association. This possibility deserves further thought and discussion, especially since it drew the fire of no less a spokesman than the later Morris Fishbein. Such a committee, in association with the FDA, could:

1. Become the responsible authorizing agent for drug procurement by all agents of the U.S. government. Billions of dollars are spent on worthless products by medical facilities of the U.S. government at this very time. This must be eliminated if the taxpayer is to look to the federal government for help in medical expense.

2. Begin a more thorough study of the ways in which new drugs can reach the market. This could perhaps implement and speed up the process of review as well as work out the very difficult problem of requiring so-called Phase 4 studies. These studies would require that surveillance of drug products be continued after they are placed on the open market in order to retrieve long-term answers to the question of efficacy and safety.

3. Make available to the consumer relevant information about drugs and drug usage and work out details for the production of a consumer package insert. The task of this committee would be to design a drug description understandable by patients and available to them if not contraindicated by