The other aspect of the responsibility we all share at this time is to move forward in such a way that our supply of food—especially those foods that are protein-rich and vital to the people of the world—that this food supply continue to expand and not become entrapped by inflexible scientists, producers, or Government officials. We are achieving a higher meat yield from our herds today with our supply of feed, and this is due in large measure to the addition of antibiotics and other drugs to both the feed and the animals themselves. We have, then, found ways to produce healthier, heavier animals through new uses of drugs; we can draw additional benefits from a not-unlimited feed supply.

Now the question seems rather clear-cut; How can we maintain progress in the field of animal agriculture without jeopardizing the public health? I doubt if an *answer* will be that celar-cut. But I believe that a response, satisfactory to everyone involved, can be formulated and made effective.

You will note that I am speaking in terms of the future. This is no reflection on my part that our present situation is one full of danger. But it does reflect, to be sure, my feeling that we are conducting our business today more on hope and faith—and less on hard data. And we need much more hard data on veterinary drug usage—and the results of such usage—than we now have.

Last fall, Dr. M. R. Clarkson, who was then our Director of the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine, sought out what pertinent information was available from a number of other Government agencies. The yield, frankly, was small. Since then, Dr. C. D. Van Houweling, our present Bureau Director, has continued to gather data, not only from Government sources, but from non-government veterinarians, other related scientists, and from industry sources as well. A great deal of new information has come to us as a result of our policy statement of August 23, 1966, requiring all sponsors of veterinary antibiotics to come forward with residue data from treated animals.

In reviewing the work of the agency of the past half year—and, in particular, in reviewing the *kinds* of data we are receiving—it is clear to us that we are still only on the threshold of understanding the total problem. We are aware of the following actions the FDA had to initiate during the past year:

The recall of a number of products from the market, specifically mastitis products, as a result of new findings.

The denial of certification for new products because of a lack of acceptable information being submitted to us.

The revoking of certification of other products already on the market, because of uncertainty about the back-up data.

The denial of certification for oil-based injectable penicillin products, which required an unrealistic withholding time.

As you can see, one of our major problems at this time is to bring together and stabilize what we actually know and can count on as being scientifically assured. This is essential for both the protection of the public health and for maintaining orderly growth in this field of veterinary drug usage. To use a more familiar phrase, it is time for us to "get a better handle" on the entire situation. And, as the title of this Symposium indicates, we are not concerned only with antibiotics—we are concerned with drugs in general, as they are applied to veterinary use.

I urge everyone taking part in this three-day meeting to lend his best efforts here and to return to work later with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of the significance of his future contributions. They will have a great bearing on the course of this valuable development in the expansion of the world's food supply. But let me recall once again that, during the past year, we have had to exercise a number of cautionary measures because of the lack of—or the conflict in—the data that our agency received.

We plan to publish shortly another Statement of Policy on antibiotics used in food-producing animals.

This statement will be based on studies we have carried out, as the Advisory Committee recommended, and on the kinds of industry information received since the last request for data, published in August 1966. This will outline the status of the oral, injectable, or other types of veterinary antibiotic preparations—except for topicals, ophthalmics, and those for which we have acceptable residue data and covered by a New Drug Application or antibiotic approval, with particular reference to prior sanctions. And, I must add, we are in the process of reviewing the data that supports those current approvals as well.

In order, however, to keep the industry moving ahead, to keep the information flowing in, and to protect the supply of food, this should lead to early publication of appropriate Food Additive Regulations; under those new regulations, new