

residues. We are intensifying our activity with respect to residues, medications, and meats. Our program for this year calls for, I believe, 4,000 samples to be taken and analyzed for drug residues. We have met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Assistant Secretary George Mehren, myself, and staff members—twice within the past 30 days to look at how we as two agencies involved in this area can tackle the problems and not duplicate efforts and unknowingly go down separate paths working on the same problem. So the scientists brought together by the National Academy of Sciences are working together. There are efforts being funded by NRC in this area as well.

Senator NELSON. How many samples are there?

Dr. GODDARD. I think we are taking 4,000 this year in our veterinary medical program to check for drug residues—4,000 samples of meat.

Senator NELSON. From all over the country?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes.

Senator NELSON. Then is somebody else doing some checking in addition?

Dr. GODDARD. I understand the USDA also is doing considerable checking in this area. That is why our staffs are now meeting to parcel out the particular problem.

Senator NELSON. Has this ever been done before?

Dr. GODDARD. We have never done it.

Senator NELSON. Has anybody in the Government ever done it?

Dr. GODDARD. The USDA is responsible, of course, for meat surveillance. That means poultry as well.

Senator NELSON. I mean, has anybody been doing a continuous scientific study of the residue of various drugs in the tissue of animals?

Dr. GODDARD. I cannot answer that accurately, Senator. I would rather refrain. I know they have done some testing, but I do not know on how broad a scale it has been done.

Senator NELSON. I do not want to reflect on the Department of Agriculture, which leans very strongly to what the farmer wants. It was a long time before any of us could get them to slow up on DDT, before they would recognize that it had any damaging effect. One of the greatest supporters of pesticides is the Department of Agriculture. I wonder what kind of a careful study they are doing. I know it was brought to Secretary Freeman's attention that of all the jobs he has, he should be interested in it and push forward on it. I don't know who is doing what.

Dr. GODDARD. You recognize in the pesticide field, Senator, there are three different agencies that have responsibility. First, the USDA must make a determination that the pesticide proposed for use on a given crop has economic significance. Then the Public Health Service must make a determination that the manner in which the pesticide is to be applied is safe for the operator who is going to be making application. Then the Food and Drug Administration must make a determination whether or not a residue will occur and if so, what tolerance will be allowed. How much residue is to be allowed? Is this harmful to human beings in terms of our food supplies?

None of these are easy questions. The Department of Agriculture probably has the easiest one to answer; that is, the economic significance. The long term effects of pesticide residues have not been adequately documented, and that is our job.