

This concerns batch testing of insulin and antibiotics. Can you explain to us what the inspection or testing consists of with regard to these drugs? At what point are they tested?

Dr. GODDARD. On insulin and antibiotics?

Mr. GORDON. Antibiotics.

Dr. GODDARD. On both these products the manufacturer receives approval from us after inspection of his facility, detailed discussion of the protocol that will be followed in the manufacture of the drug, and examination of samples that are submitted. Now, the manufacturer submits his own samples and sends them to the Food and Drug Administration laboratories where they are checked. We then carry out an analysis. We charge the manufacturer a fee for this service. This fee is carried through a revolving fund and I think the cost of it is something like \$3 million a year total, or less than a mill per dose of the drug involved.

Mr. GORDON. So in effect, then, there are some drugs on the market, the batch tested drugs, in which the physician can have a higher degree of confidence because of Government supervision and inspection, is that correct?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes, from this point of view of the existing system, yes.

Mr. GORDON. Could you give us an estimate of the percentage of prescriptions which are written for these drugs?

Dr. GODDARD. I would like to provide that for the record, if I might.

Mr. GORDON. About how much would it cost to extend this to all drugs?

Dr. GODDARD. If I may, I would like to submit that in a fairly detailed fashion for the record, and give you the assumptions used in computing the estimated cost. The estimate that we have for batch certification of all drugs, as I recall, was around \$90 million per year.

Mr. GORDON. Per year?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes.

(The information referred to, subsequently received, follows:)

STATEMENT OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGARDING TOTAL NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN FOR ANTIBIOTICS AND INSULIN

The FDA keeps no detailed records reflecting numbers of prescriptions filled for certain drugs. We do have access to information of this nature supplied in an independent report by the R. A. Goslin Company, Dedham, Massachusetts, the "National Prescription Audit."

The National Prescription Audit is compiled by this company through 24 audits a year of each of 210 representative pharmacies throughout the country. These pharmacies have been selected because of a better than average prescription volume and because their prescriptions represent a wide cross-section of different prescribers. From the study of these pharmacies an estimate of the total is projected.

For the year 1966, the following figures have been given for antibiotics and insulin:

	Total number written in category	Total of all drug prescriptions written
Antibiotics.....	127,603,000	12 percent.
Insulin.....	832,000	Less than 0.05 percent.

These figures represent both new prescriptions and refilled prescriptions.