

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 3739

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Memorandum

TO : The Secretary

DATE: August 30, 1968

FROM : Philip R. Lee, M.D. Assistant Secretary for
Health and Scientific Affairs

SUBJECT: Task Force on Prescription Drugs - Progress Report

Prescription Drugs in Medicare

The Task Force has not yet developed definitive recommendations on the possible inclusion of out-of-hospital prescription drugs under Medicare.

We are referring to the Social Security Administration for detailed cost analysis such subjects as program financing, reimbursement methods, and administrative approaches. When this analysis is complete, it will be reviewed by the Task Force and appropriate recommendations prepared for your consideration.

Background Reports

As a result of the work of the Task Force staff and its consultants during the past year, a very large amount of information has been obtained on various aspects of the use, production, and distribution of prescription drug products. Much of this has previously been unavailable, and it is urgently needed by the drug industry, pharmacy, the health professions, consumer groups, Congressional committees, and many Federal and State agencies.

We propose to publish these as a series of background volumes which will serve as the objective basis for many of our recommendations, as well as source material for discussion and further research. It is our plan to publish these volumes on the following subjects:

