

3764 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

The Task Force Master Drug List. As developed for the Task Force, the Master Drug List (MDL) contained the 409 most frequently prescribed drugs dispensed to the elderly in 1966. These accounted for 174.7 million, or 88 percent, of all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacies for the elderly in that year, and for \$682.3 million, or 80 percent, of their prescription drug costs at the retail level. ^{a/}

The complete MDL, with a variety of analyses, will be presented in a separate background paper.

Included among the 409 products were 379 which were dispensed under their brand names. These accounted for more than 90 percent of the total number of MDL prescriptions, about 90 percent of the total acquisition cost to retailers, and 95 percent of the total retail cost to the patients.

^{a/} It should be noted that insulin, which has figured prominently in many drug insurance programs, is not included in these tabulations, since it is generally dispensed without a prescription. In 1966, it was estimated that insulin dispensed to the elderly cost about \$3 million at the retail level.