

Spokesmen for some pharmacy associations have urged that wholesale prices to hospital pharmacies and community pharmacies be kept at the same level--a move which would lower prices moderately to community pharmacies, but raise them substantially to hospital pharmacies. Hospital spokesmen have declared any such action would raise hospital per diem rates still higher.

Similar differences are apparent between the prices of drugs sold to community pharmacies and those sold to Federal and State agencies.

The Task Force finds that the substantial differences in the prices at which drug products are offered to community pharmacies and to hospitals and governmental agencies deserve further examination (see page 49).

Foreign Prices. Many American companies offer their products for sale in foreign countries at prices substantially below those available in the United States, primarily to meet price competition which does not generally exist in this country.

During the past few years, there has been mounting insistence that these companies should price their