

ing, the FDA Commissioner attended and participated in discussions relating to the delineation of the possible role of the Council on Drugs in Government affairs.

Because of its continuing interest in this area, the AMA Council on Drugs convened a meeting of representatives of several scientific and professional organizations concerned with drugs and drug therapy for the purpose of exploring the feasibility of establishing a National Drug Commission. The Commission would be designed to undertake the study of problems relating to the evaluation of drugs and drug information. The study group will arrange additional meetings to explore how such a commission would be constituted and what its scope might be.

The AMA Council on Drugs also plans to explore other areas that may assist the FDA in carrying out its responsibilities. The teaching of therapeutics in medical schools should be studied to determine what, if any, deficiencies exist and how teaching methods can be improved. The goal presently seen is the development in students of the ability to evaluate their own prescribing habits. The Council also hopes to be instrumental in the development of effective therapeutics surveillance committees in hospitals. Such committees can serve to continue the therapeutic education of physicians and can serve as a source of information on drug evaluations for the FDA.

The AMA believes that it can serve as a bridge between the FDA and physicians for the purpose of interpreting governmental regulatory activities. AMA publications include articles designed to carry out this mission. In addition, the AMA on appropriate occasions has submitted written comments to the FDA concerning regulations proposed by the agency.

Mr. Chairman, that completes our response to the seven questions contained in your July 14 letter. Dr. Simenstad and I, together with members of the AMA staff who are with us this morning, will do our best to answer any questions the committee may have.

(The footnotes to the statement of the American Medical Association follow:

¹ Contributions received by the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation may be earmarked by the donor for specific purposes or may be "unrestricted" in which case, decision as to application of funds is made by the AMA-ERF Board of Directors for any of the five purposes listed below:

(1) *Funds for Medical Schools*: Each year AMA-ERF raises approximately \$1,000,000 in contributions for transmittal to all approved medical schools in the United States. Through this program, the medical deans receive these funds for their unrestricted use and without any deductions for administrative or collection costs. (2) *The Loan Guarantee Program*: Has extended an average of over 5,500 bank loans a year, since its inception in 1962, to medical students, interns and residents. These young men and women are able to borrow up to \$1,500 a year to help meet essential training and living expenses. Banks participating in the program lend \$12.50 for every dollar contained in the AMA-ERF Loan Guarantee Fund. This Fund, made up of contributions from physicians, women's auxiliaries, medical societies, private industry and foundations exceeded \$4,000,000 at the end of 1968. (3) *Program in Medical Journalism*: Provides practicing physicians the opportunity to improve their writing under the direction of the Editorial Department of the Journal of the American Medical Association. A select number of students continue to receive on-the-job training as editorial apprentices in JAMA offices. (4) *The Institute for Biomedical Research*: After more than two years of planning and building, the AMA-ERF facility for basic research into life processes was opened in October, 1965. Presently, the institute has space and laboratory equipment in the new AMA headquarters addition, occupying the top three of nine floors. As member scientists are recruited, specific equipment and supplies are provided to satisfy their research needs. Plans call for maximum of 20 to 25 senior scientists, together with associates and technicians. The institute is designed to provide maximum opportunity for outstanding scientists to devote their full energies to basic research in cellular biology without the distractions of teaching or performing administrative chores. It is supported entirely by private contributions and corporate memberships. (5) *Categorical Research Grants Program*: To assist those who seek an efficient vehicle to make contributions through bequests or life-time gifts to medical