

It was stated, with pride, by this individual who functions as hospital director that he himself was able to deal with nine out of every 10 patients who came to him so that the doctor was not bothered.

Mr. Howell has the title of Medical Technician. However, it is apparent that he has been permitted to usurp responsibilities far in excess of his qualifications. It has been learned that this individual is responsible for the filling of requisitions for drugs from the other prisons within the system. In this capacity he has made substitutions for the drugs requested. Such decision should be made by a licensed physician. It is apparent to this committee that with proper controls this situation could not have existed.

Conditions in the so-called hospital at Kilby were appallingly bad and would not have been acceptable fifty years ago, let alone today. One felt that a little extra effort and a little additional money would have made a tremendous difference if only the drive had been there. The importance of this hospital at Kilby is that it turned out later that persons having severe reactions to any of the drug trials in any of the prisons were transferred to this hospital for more intensive care.

The situation at Tutwiler Prison where only women are housed was immeasurably better than at Kilby. Both the warden and the hospital matron knew what was going on and had details of each protocol in front of them. Only relatively innocuous drugs such as certain hormonal products were tested at Tutwiler (the potentially dangerous drugs were tested at Draper and Kilby where only men are housed). The subjects in each trial knew the purpose of the trials and reported regular and adequate supervision. Housing and care were generally satisfactory and the morale of staff and prisoners was obviously high. It was notable that these prisoners received a larger weekly allowance than was the case in the other two prisons and appeared to make good use of this. We were told with pride by the prisoners of patients with cancer, which had been diagnosed early as a result of the testing program and that these patients were now receiving proper treatment. The difference in this prison was more than could be accounted for by the nature of the trials being undertaken, or by the fact that this was a woman's prison.

The situation in Draper was similar to that which had been found at Kilby, though not as bad. The difference was probably related to the dedication of the prison physician and to the strong sense of responsibility of the warden. There was no question here but that inmates had been used as technicians until very recently, while severe drug reactions were not being given the attention (medical or experimental) which their condition deserved. Supervision for patients who had been "stopped up" in the special room constructed by Southern Food and Drug Research, appeared to be almost entirely non-medical in nature and no really adequate provision had been made for any serious, unexpected, severe reaction. Once again, it appeared that most of the prisoners were volunteering purely for monetary reasons and were staying on the tests even after disturbing reactions had occurred simply to be paid more. There was some question whether a physician was being called on to decide what reactions were serious enough to constitute a demand for a patient to be withdrawn from a trial or whether this decision was in the hands of a technician. Here also, it appeared that the drug trials were given priority over the normal business of the prison and this division of authority could hardly have benefited the status of the local prison officials who were doing, apparently, a good job under difficult circumstances.

Your committee believes that by and large, the research studies completed and published in highly respected journals by staff members of Southern Food and Drug Corporation represent creditable, useful, and practical contributions to medical science. However, this good should not be permitted to hide the manifest defects in the present system.

The Board of Corrections with its physician member has naturally assumed that any doctor conducting experimental studies on human subjects would take the utmost precautions to safeguard the health of such subjects. Their confidence has been gravely abused.

It is the opinion of the committee that the prison testing facilities in Kilby and Draper do not measure up to minimum standards and compare unfavorably with what has been described to us as existing in several other states (see later in this report). Within Alabama, the limited testing done on prisoners at the Clinical Research Center of the University Hospital under the direction of Dr. Clifton Meador (now Dean of the Medical School) provides a striking con-