DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
Rockville, Md., January 29, 1971.

HON. GAYLORD NELSON,
Chairman, Monopoly Subcommittee,
Select Committee on Small Business,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON: During the testimony by Charles C. Edwards, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs, before your Subcommittee on January 18, 1971, it was requested that FDA furnish, for the record, the number of inspectors employed by FDA over the previous six years. This information is as follows:

INSPECTORS

	Domestic inspectors	Import inspectors [1]
Year:		
1965	756	49
1966	693	47
1967	718	49
1968	628	43
1969	590	42
1970	577	38

[1] Import inspectors perform import work only.

Thank you for your interest in our consumer protection activities. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

M. J. RYAN,
Director, Office of Legislative Services.

Senator NELSON. Is there any sound reason for the Department of Defense having its inspectors and the Veterans' Administration making plant inspections? Would it not make more sense if all the inspectors of all the plants were in one place, the Food and Drug Administration?

Dr. EDWARDS. I think without any question it is a waste of resources, it is a waste of money to have this triple duplication by these three agencies. It really is the responsibility of the Food and Drug Administration to assure the American public, be it the Federal public or the private public, that drugs are in fact safe and efficacious and to have two other agencies involved in this is utter nonsense.

I would like to have the resources that they spend for this particular project allocated to Food and Drug Administration.

Senator NELSON. Maybe we can help you.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Edwards, millions and millions of dollars are being spent by the public on long acting drugs. These are sold under many names like spansules, sustained action tablets, extenso tablets and others. The Government has spent considerable funds on these drugs also. We have had testimony that these long-acting dosage forms are unreliable, do not do what they purport to do and can be dangerous.

Does the FDA have substantial evidence of the efficacy and reliability of these drugs?

Dr. EDWARDS. If I might, I would like to have Dr. Simmons speak to that particular question.

Dr. SIMMONS. This problem we are well aware of, Mr. Gordon. It is a very difficult field and we know that many people who have