

Senator NELSON. And is that because of the price?

Mr. DWINELL. Yes, Mr. Chairman. As I point out later, it is for price reasons only, because we certainly have no findings as to any inadequacy of those drugs.

Senator NELSON. In other words, there are equivalent drugs that are cheaper?

Mr. DWINELL. This means that AID would finance these drugs if they were offered for sale at the lower prices prevailing for their generic pharmacological equivalents. We just do not anticipate that this will be done.

Senator NELSON. You mean they would be eligible for consideration if they reduced their price to the competitive price of the equivalent drug. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. DWINELL. That is what I am saying.

Now, I will read that list, Mr. Chairman, which will demonstrate the fact that I am not an expert in this field.

Senator NELSON. I have read the list.

(The list of drugs follows:)

<i>Generic name</i>	<i>Brand name</i>
Chlortetracycline.....	Aureomycin
Doxycycline.....	Vibramycin
Methacycline HCL.....	Rondomycin
Demethylchlortetracycline.....	Ledermycin, Declomycin
Rolitetracycline.....	Bristacin, Syntetrin, Valacycline
Oxytetracycline.....	Terramycin
Chlorcyclizine.....	Histantine
Cyproheptadine HCL.....	Periactin
Dexchlorpheniramine Maleate.....	Polaramine
Triamcinolone.....	Aristocort, Ledercort, Kenacort
Dexamethasone.....	Decadron
Paramethasone.....	Haldron
Betamethasone.....	Celestone, Valisone
Methylprednisolone.....	Medaprin, Medrol
Propoxyphene.....	Darvon
Ethoheptazine.....	Zactane, Zactirin, Equagesi

Mr. DWINELL. The first six drugs that I listed are tetracyclines for use in treating infectious diseases. The next three are antihistamines for use in treating allergic conditions. The following five are corticosteroids important in the treatment of rheumatic diseases. The last two items are analgesics—pain killers.

The merits of most of the listed drugs were discussed at earlier hearings of the committee. The testimony at the hearings and the findings of the NAS-NRC, along with information obtained from such expert sources as the Medical Letter, offer substantial expert opinion that lower-cost drugs which are equally effective, are readily available for the indications ascribed to the 16 ineligible drugs.

I should like to offer some examples:

Experts say that tetracycline HCL is the drug of choice among all the tetracyclines. Although tetracycline HCL is available here and abroad at about \$30 to \$35 a kilogram, we have been asked to finance various other forms of tetracyclines at prices ranging from \$100 to \$2,250 a kilogram.