

Physician and other professional reaction to the FDA publication has been encouraging. A sizable amount of correspondence has given FDA some measurement of the publication's readership effectiveness. And, nearly 1,000 requests have come in from other health professionals seeking to be placed on the mailing list.

FDA also plans to publish a comprehensive report on all drugs reviewed by NAS-NRC, along with the summary from NAS-NRC on the drug efficacy study. This will supplement the recent FDA publication of the list of drugs found ineffective by NAS-NRC review which has been sent to county and State medical societies, hospitals, and other government agencies, and is available to others who request it.

Senator NELSON. You say FDA also plans to publish a comprehensive report on all drugs reviewed by NAS-NRC. Is that part of their current drug information publication?

Dr. STEINFELD. This would be a separate document, Senator Nelson, which would encompass the total drug efficacy review, a summary plus a list of the various drugs in the various categories. We are planning, at least at this point, to distribute it to all physicians.

Senator NELSON. Will this come out as one big publication?

Dr. STEINFELD. One publication.

Senator NELSON. And what is its purpose?

Dr. STEINFELD. Its purpose is to inform the practicing physician of those drugs which were found ineffective or probably effective, or possibly effective, to inform him of the criteria which were used by the various panels in making these recommendations, and to inform him of the problems the panels encountered as they have submitted their evaluations in their original report to the Commissioner of the FDA. I think it will serve a very useful purpose.

Senator NELSON. This review is not over yet, is it? Will they have a series of publications on this subject?

Dr. STEINFELD. Well, we think the review will be over fairly shortly. We hope to publish the remaining list of drugs in the next few months.

Senator NELSON. So this will cover all the drugs covered by the Kefauver amendments, 1938 to 1962?

Dr. STEINFELD. This will cover the drugs reviewed by the NAS-NRC and be really what we think is a final summary. Of course, new knowledge may result in changes and there would have to be supplements. Perhaps the bulletin that the FDA publishes could be used for that purpose, but it would be an extensive document because of the number of drugs involved.

Senator NELSON. Well, of course, on each one of the drugs that each panel considered, the NAS-NRC made a statement. This will be a more elaborate discussion; is that correct?

Dr. STEINFELD. This will be a summary document which will be written primarily to help the physician to give him the background data which the NAS-NRC used in making its judgments as well as their judgments. It will not be the total mass of material transmitted from the National Academy of Sciences to the FDA. It will be just a summary, hopefully usable and used by the practicing physicians.