A study at the University of Arkansas Medical Center Hospital of a proposed intrahospital drug distribution system.

A study at the Los Angeles County General Hospital of drug utilization review with on-line computer capabilities.

A study at the University of California School of Medicine of patterns of influence among pharmacists, physicians, and patients.

A study being conducted in four States—Colorado, Rhode Island, Oklahoma, and West Virginia—by the Medical Services Administration of the Social and Rehabilitation Service, together with staff members and a contractor, Publication Engineers, Inc., to develop model utilization review systems that may be adapted for all States with Medicaid programs.

A study by Touche Ross & Co. on interim requirements for the medicaid surveillance and utilization review reporting system.

Further, a Drug Utilization Review Committee was established last fall in my office with representatives from FDA, HSMHA, SRS, and SSA to study developments to the present and recommend further steps that should be undertaken by the Department. Recommendations of this Review Committee will be utilized in determining what further measures may be required by our Department.

The complex of drug activities that was assigned to FDA in February 1969 continues to be administered by that agency as suggested in recommendation 21. (Certain reassignments resulting from the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency have no impact upon FDA's drug activities.)

The skills of experts both within and outside the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare are being used to augment the scientific capabilities of the Food and Drug Administration as proposed in recommendation 23. We have participated in and utilized information from many interdepartmental committees and we plan continued use of such groups. Examples include a study group on drug research and study group on medical services, both of which tapped the resources of several segments of the various health agencies within this Department.

Senator NELSON. What was recommendation 23?

Dr. STEINFELD. To use more experts both within the Department and outside in augmenting the scientific capabilities of FDA. The concern is that FDA was carrying out many of its responsibilities without adequate consultation with other experts.

We have recommendation 23, I can read it if you would like.

Senator NELSON. Yes.

Mr. RANKIN. The recommendation is:

Efforts should be strengthened to assure that the skills of experts both within and outside of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare are used to augment the scientific capabilities of the Food and Drug Administration.

Senator NELSON. Please proceed.

Dr. STEINFELD. Interdepartmental committees have also been used to supplement the scientific capabilities within FDA. An ad hoc committee on toxicological procedures employed experts from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture as well as industry representatives. Their report is not yet complete.