

leaves 85 items that there is a potential for competitive procurement on. This is the 85, sir, that have been selected and we are going to attempt to buy them competitively, put them in our national distribution system, and educate, if I may use the word, our prescribing physicians, if we can, to use these competitively procured items.

We have 13 of them under the first steps of the purchase action right now. The first invitations will go out February 15 on these 13 and the last invitations will go out around March 15.

What I am saying is that if we can do what we have started to do with 13 items, through 85 items, then we will have in the depot system all of those items that can be bought competitively, in fact, competitively bought.

Senator NELSON. How many did you say were single or sole-source?

Mr. WHITWORTH. 336.

Senator NELSON. 336 out of—

Mr. WHITWORTH. 544, sir.

Senator NELSON. These are 336 different drugs or does that include dosage forms of the same drug?

Mr. WHITWORTH. It includes dosage forms.

Senator NELSON. How many different compounds are involved, then?

Mr. WHITWORTH. I can submit it for the record, sir, but I don't know.

Senator NELSON. When you say sole-source for these 300-odd drugs, do you mean that there is no other similar compound in the marketplace or rather, that there is no other therapeutic agent that does the same thing? Or are you saying that among these sole-sources are certain brand names for which there are other generics available of the same compound?

Mr. WHITWORTH. Well, sir, they are all brand names, the 336. Whether there are other drugs available that will do the same job, I will have to defer to Mr. Statler.

Mr. STATLER. These are only available from a single manufacturer in the United States, Senator. In other words, an example would be chlorthalidopoxide. No other manufacturer other than Roche manufactures that.

Senator NELSON. Maybe I am not making my question clear.

There are a whole list of tetracyclines. Obviously, if you order chlortetracycline, it will have only one source. You would call that a sole-source item?

Dr. WELLS. Yes. It would be a sole-source if you ordered that.

Senator NELSON. That is what I am getting at. Chlortetracycline, doxycycline, methacycline HCL—these are all members of the tetracycline family. Would you call each one of these a sole-source item? Is that what we are describing here?

Mr. COOK. In answering your question, Senator, yes. However, in the tetracycline family the only item we have in stock is the tetracycline hydrochloride.

Senator NELSON. But if you had these other ones you would consider that sole-source.

Mr. COOK. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. So what we are talking about here as sole-source is a number of items which have been selected by brand name that