

Senator NELSON. As a related question, on page 2 you refer to a study group to be headed by Dr. Rousselot to review your entire stock list of drugs, and make recommendations for their retention or deletion, which I think is an appropriate step to take. But in dealing with the question of rational prescribing, you state:

In addition to the actions generated by the Study, DOD has directed the Surgeons General to emphasize the use of the most cost-effective medications whenever professionally appropriate.

I notice that the Defense Department spent about \$3 million in 1968-69—I don't have the 1970 figures—on a number of tetracyclines, demethylchlortetracycline, oxytetracycline, and chlortetracycline. If the Department had heeded the advice of the medical experts and used the drug of choice of that family of antibiotics, that is, plain tetracycline, our calculation is that \$2,300,000 would have been saved. I am sure you realize it is the position of the Medical Letter that tetracycline HCL is an equivalent of the other members of the tetracycline group. Dr. Simmons of the Food and Drug Administration says the same thing.

Well, while counsel finds the comments of Dr. Simmons, Dr. Heinz Eichenwald, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, University of Texas, who was chairman of one of the NAS-NRC antibiotic panels, states, "Similarly, a large group of tetracyclines have been prepared. Basically none of them are superior to the parent molecule, tetracycline itself."

Dr. Simmons, Director of the Bureau of Drugs, FDA, states:

At the present time—take tetracyclines which you had a lot of testimony on—there are about five different chemical formulations of tetracycline. Now, all of them have minor differences which present and old labeling have shown and on which advertising claims have been made. The important thing, however, is that these are minor differences, though they are clinically insignificant. And, therefore, there is no reason why a physician should choose one as opposed to the other.

Do you agree with the position of Dr. Eichenwald, Dr. Simmons, and the Medical Letter on the tetracyclines?

General HAYES. Essentially we do.

Senator NELSON. Well, what is the explanation?

General HAYES. I would like to answer that a little further and have Colonel Snyder respond to part of that question, what our actual proportion of procurement was at that time.

Colonel SNYDER. Mr. Chairman, there are approximately five major forms of tetracycline and during the period July 1, 1968, through last Friday we procured something over 300 million dose forms of the standard generic tetracycline. As opposed to that we procured about 45 million doses—of all other forms of tetracyclines. I have figures with me that we can provide for the record.

(The information referred to follows:)