

and Senator Ribicoff stated late last year that he plans to hold hearings on FDA operations early in this year.

We believe a change in the drug regulatory system is badly needed. The system too often stifles creativity and escalates costs of research; perpetuates a continuing decline in the number of new drugs entering the market in this country; and may be depriving the practicing physician of agents beneficial to patient care. The reasons for all this are not clear, are undoubtedly complex, and requires thorough investigation and study. The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and its Subcommittee on Public Health and Environment, of which you are Chairman, have appropriate jurisdiction, as we understand it, over the operations of FDA. Your Subcommittee, it appears to us, would be the proper body to direct a full-scale review of the effect of the 1962 Drug Act and Regulations on the practice of medicine and the conduct of academic and industrial drug research.

We believe that this review should be undertaken as promptly as possible, since the welfare of patients may be at stake. If it would be helpful to you to confer with us on this subject, we are most willing to do so.

Respectfully,

Robert D. Dripps, M.D. (Chairman), Vice President for medical Affairs, and Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Pennsylvania; Robert F. Bradley, M.D., Medical Director, Joslin Clinic, Boston, Mass.; Eguene Braunwald, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, La Jolla; Julius H. Comroe, Jr., M.D., Professor of Physiology and Director, Cardiovascular Research Institute, San Francisco Medical Center; Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., President, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas (Albert Lasker Award, 1963); James E. Eckenhoff, M.D., Dean, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois; Edward D. Freis, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Chief, Cardiovascular Research Laboratories, Georgetown University Hospital, and Senior Medical Investigator, Veterans' Administration Hospital, Washington (Albert Lasker Award, 1971); Alfred Gilman, Ph. D., Chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y.; Nathan S. Kline, M.D., Director of Research, Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, N.Y. (Albert Lasker Award 1957, 1964); Louis Lasagna, M.D., Chairman, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, N.Y.; Sherman M. Mellinkoff, M.D., Dean, University of California, School of Medicine, Los Angeles, Calif.; Walter Modell, M.D., Chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, and Editor of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics; John A. Oates, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Irvine H. Page, M.D., Senior Consultant, Research Division, Cleveland Clinic, Editor-in-Chief of Modern Medicine, Past President of the American Heart Association (Albert Lasker Award, 1958); E. M. Papper, M.D., Vice President for Medical Affairs, and Dean, University of Miami School of Medicine, Florida; Dickinson W. Richards, M.D., Lambert Professor of Medicine Emeritus, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York (Nobel Laureate, 1956); Burtrum C. Schiele, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, and Principal Investigator, Clinical Psychopharmacology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.; George W. Thorn, M.D., Physician-in-Chief, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.; and Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physics, Harvard Medical School; Robert W. Wilkins, M.D., Chairman and Director, Division of Medicine, Boston University Medical Center (Albert Lasker Award, 1958); William R. Wilson, M.D., Chairman, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa; Robert I. Wise, M.D., Ph. D., Magee Professor of Medicine, and Chairman of the Department, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.; George D. Zuidema, M.D., Professor and Director, Department of Surgery, the Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.