Senator NELSON. I understand. What I am curious about is the additional requirements. Expert testimony before this subcommittee indicates that if you meet USP and NF standards, that is all that is necessary. That is not to say that you cannot improve on the standards, but the compendial standards are the best we have at present.

Now if, after that, there are some additional specifications that the manufacturer slips in here so that as the Colonel says——

Mr. STAATS. I understand.

Senator NELSON (continuing). As the Colonel says, you end up buying another drug on a negotiated basis, despite the fact that there are other drugs that meet the USP——

Mr. STAATS. We have the same problem, Mr. Chairman, as you are expressing. We say here in the central paragraph of page 11 that only about 50 percent of these drug items managed by the DPSC and 60 percent managed by the VA are in the USP and NF. Then we say the use of manufacturer's data by DPSC in the development of its specifications could result in including requirements which are not essential to producing a comparable product or which do not contribute to its medical usefulness. That is the point.

Senator NELSON. Please recite the statistics again about those monographed in the USP?

Mr. STAATS. Only about 50 percent of the drug items managed centrally by DPSC and 60 percent of those managed centrally by the VA are monographed in the USP and NF.

Senator NELSON. The 50 percent that are not monographed to which you refer—are they prescription drugs?

Mr. CROWTHER. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. That is the second point that ought to be looked at. We have had testimony that everything that is considered medically useful as a prescription drug is monographed in the USP or NF. That might indicate that they should not be buying about half the drugs they are buying.

Is that not correct?

Mr. STAATS. Yes, if they are a prescription drug for a medically indicated purpose, the USP or the NF would have them unless they are new drugs that have not been evaluated yet.

Senator NELSON. That rather astonishes me. Would you give us a list of that 50 percent that are not monographed in the USP or NF?

Mr. CROWTHER. I am sure that we can get information on that, both from the miltary and the VA, that would give you an indication of which drugs they are.

Senator NELSON. Would you give that list to us? I cannot imagine that half the drugs they are using are not even mentioned in the USP or NF. Maybe they are spending half their money on placebos.

Would you give us the list so we can pursue it further?

Mr. CROWTHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. STAATS. We will get you whatever we can.

I want to point out in here that DPSC includes in its solicitation packages a Specification Analysis Sheet for potential suppliers to submit comments on the specification requirements and those that bidders claim are unnecessary or unduly restrictive are evaluated by DPSC.

(The subsequent information was received and follows:)