

of drug products. Appropriate information will be coordinated with concerned officials of FDA, USP and NF.

7. Review proposed marketing and administrative actions on drug items; recommend appropriate action to Supply Service.
8. Perform such other functions as may be assigned.

This committee now has ten subcommittees and each subcommittee as well as the parent committee is actively engaged in bringing about needed improvements in our total drug program. Meetings are conducted at least monthly. Most of the current actions I have described to you today have originated within this committee. Its chairman is the Assistant Chief Medical Director for Professional Services; and its members include the heads of all programs involved in patient care, as well as the support services such as Pharmacy Service, Supply Service and Medical Administrative Service.

In my opinion, the effective functioning of this committee and its counterpart groups at the field stations will assure the continuation of a sound and rational policy for drug therapy in the Veterans Administration. At the same time, I believe that we can and will avoid the bureaucratic tendency to impose an unwarranted and centralized judgment upon those who have direct responsibility for the care and treatment of veteran patients throughout the country.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. My associates and I will be pleased to answer questions or provide other data you may require.