

With the publication of the FDA Drug Bulletin, beginning in July 1971, the Food and Drug Administration launched a new and, we believe, an effective means of communicating a variety of types of drug information to over 600,000 physicians, dentists and other health professionals. The Bulletin is being mailed to physicians on a periodic and continuing basis. The Bulletin is being used to explain certain policies, to announce our approval of new drugs for marketing as well as our approval of new uses of previously marketed drugs, to relate the questionable effectiveness or ineffectiveness of drugs, to caution about newly recognized hazards of "old" drugs, or to warn against subpotency of drugs. We are submitting a copy of each Bulletin for the record. Of course, we will be pleased to answer any questions concerning them.

2. More understanding is needed of the problems inherent in drug evaluation. Summaries of the information on which a judgment was made by this agency to approve a drug for marketing should be available and used by physicians. As you know, the Bureau of Drugs is the world's largest repository of original drug information. The communication of this information to the medical profession can help improve therapeutics and also help eliminate wasteful duplication of costly scientific research. Our recent proposal on Freedom of Information will