We found that it was common for manufacturers to add requirements to those in the compendia (USP and NF) for products they sell to the general public. Comments by manufacturers and compendia officials and statements in professional publications explain that the additional requirements are added for controlling manufacturers' production processe and to ensure product quality and uniformity.

The DoD practice of establishing a specification for every drug item in its central supply system, while commendable for purposes of broadening and equalizing the competitive base and assuring the receipt of acceptable products, results in unnecessary technical and administrative effort when the policy extends to drug items which, because of legal or regulatory restrictions, are obtainable from only one source.

The VA, after its appearance before your Subcommittee in 1970, began developing specifications for 115 sole source items for which competition appeared feasible. We were informed on May 1, 1972, that 36 final specifications had been issued as a result of this effort.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

In our last appearance before the Subcommittee we reviewed the quality control activities of FDA, DPSC, and the VA. We have noted (1) apparent overlap of these activities, (2) the acceptable results obtained by VA from its minimal inspection efforts supplemented with the use of FDA testing services, and (3) that substantial military procurements are made each year from Federal Supply Schedules and local vendors--about $21 million in fiscal year 1970--based