

9074 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

Such industry and association questions should be considered in any expansion of FDA's authority.

This authority should extend to all products coming under FDA's responsibility. (See pp. 17, 24, and 30.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare should propose legislative changes to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to provide FDA with authority to

- examine records and data related to the production and distribution of products,
- detain products suspected or known to be defective, and
- require firms to recall these products.

AGENCY ACTIONS AND UNRESOLVED ISSUES

HEW said it was giving serious consideration to the inclusion of GAO's legislative proposals in HEW's legislative program for the Ninety-third Congress. (See p. 33.)

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS

GAO recommends that the Congress consider amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to strengthen FDA's authority along the lines outlined above.