Dr. FELDMANN. Yes, sir. This is not the bid specifications, but rather the material supplied to the Committee; yes, sir.

Mr. ADAMS. Now, in no case were there an additional specification that dealt with the safety or efficacy of a drug mentioned in your opinion?

Dr. FELDMANN. I addressed myself only to those drugs that are recognized in the National Formulary. I deferred response to those in the USP. With respect to those in the National Formulary, in my opinion, approximately half of the aspects referred to were matters that are not of a medical significance. In other words, color—excuse me—taste, and specific gravity, things of this nature, for the formula.

Now, concerning the other half, that could be regarded as having a medical significance, or a quality significance, I concluded that there were none of those requirements which were not adequately covered by the existing National Formulary specifications; so that indeed, there were no specifications among those listed by the DPSC in their response, which would have led one to believe that the product would thereby be of a higher quality, or would need to be of a higher quality, in order to meet their standard than if it simply met the NF standard.

Mr. ADAMS. Limiting yourself simply to that list, would it be fair to say that making an additional requirement dealing with taste, color, and shape would yield a higher bid price?

Dr. FELDMANN. That they would warrant a higher bid price?

Mr. ADAMS. That is correct.

Dr. FELDMANN. Unless I were to see some specific reason for it, that I am presently unaware of—in my opinion, no, it would not warrant a higher bid price.

Mr. ADAMS. As to the other list, the bid specifications, I just want to make sure I understand it correctly, in the cases where the Government orders drugs under their generic name, it is generally less expensive than ordering drugs under a brand name.

Is that an accurate generalization? I realize there may be some exceptions?

Dr. FELDMANN. It is my understanding that all DPSC bids are made under the generic name, so that all of the specifications, therefore, are titled by the generic name. The Chairman drew a conclusion from some of this information, as I interpret it, that the specifications could be designed in such a way that only one product would meet all of those. I just take note of that conclusion.

Mr. ADAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator NELSON. On February 1, Dr. Edwards, commenting on the issue in general—and I think he also was commenting on the bioavailability question—stated before the Health Subcommittee of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee:

> Nevertheless, based upon present knowledge, I believe that with very few exceptions, any drug prescribed in this country, will give the same therapeutic results as any other chemically equivalent product. . . . we regard this issue as limited, well-recognized, and manageable.