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VFW Calls For U.S. Drug Testing; Warns Of 'Fast Buck Operators'

DALLAS—At its convention at the Statler Hilton here, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States adopted a resolution calling on the government to institute a testing program "to assure that all Americans receive only medicines of the highest proven quality." The resolution also praised the Department of Defense program of testing drugs for quality and the work and products of research-oriented reputable manufacturers of drugs.

The Defense Department has been testing products from small drug companies that are not well-known and, said VFW's newly elected Commander-in-Chief, Joseph L. Vicites, "the Department of

Defense is rejecting approximately 45% of the drugs and medicines it tests before making purchases."

Inspectors from the department have uncovered "substandard sanitary conditions and a general absence of even rudimentary quality control" in a number of "small, back-alley drug manufacturing plants, some of which have been set up by fast buck operators," Mr. Vicites said.

The 45% rejection figure, he explained, applies to drugs actually tested. "The products of reputable, research-oriented companies are not tested regularly because those companies have proven high standards," he added.

DUAL STANDARDS?