

General HAYES. That is right, preserve the quality of the drug at its optimum state under those circumstances. So we will have those differences for procurement purposes.

Senator NELSON. I understand. I don't think anybody would quarrel with that.

That same standard would not apply to drugs you were going to use in Department of Defense installations within the Continental United States and within the European theater?

General HAYES. Within the European theater contingencies arise.

Senator NELSON. For emergency—

General HAYES. Right.

Senator BEALL. General, just to put this in proper perspective for me, you indicated during the course of your remarks that Mr. Feinberg's statement had some merit sometime ago but apparently does not have merit today or is not applicable today. It leads me to believe that there was a time, perhaps, when things were not as good as they are now. I am wondering if you could tell me what was the overall quality of drugs prior to the time you adopted your present drug procurement policy, and what your experience is after the adoption of that policy today?

General HAYES. I sort of lost you in there.

Senator BEALL. All right. What experiences did physicians have with drugs prior to the time you adopted the present program at DOD and what is the experience that physicians now have with drugs procured under this program?

General HAYES. Well, sometime back we did have problems with drugs of a pill not dissolving in the gastrointestinal tract and, therefore, not delivering the medication. Early breakdown of drugs under intramuscular or intravenously because of improper buffering of solutions, these things have all been pretty much eliminated now and we just do not have the problem. This has been the interplay between our standards between the USP and the FDA.

Senator BEALL. Do I conclude, then, that they have been eliminated partially as a result of your program at DOD or—

General HAYES. I think this is a fair statement to make, yes.

Senator BEALL. But the condition does not exist any more? The danger is not there any more?

General HAYES. Well, I think there will always be a danger that something can happen. There will always have to be monitoring.

Senator BEALL. How did the Surgeons General relate to this? Did they recommend that you do what you are doing or did they recommend differently?

General HAYES. What Surgeon General?

Senator BEALL. The Surgeons General of the United States. Formerly the Surgeon General a few years ago when we were going through all this business.

General HAYES. I do not know how he related to it.

Senator BEALL. A suggestion did not come from the Surgeons General as presently constituted or formerly constituted to the Department of Defense to embark on this kind of activity?

General HAYES. To my knowledge, no.