

10506 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

--will initiate a control system with DOD to assure that drug specifications are either developed jointly or coordinated; and

--is willing to rely on FDA to provide quality assurance for VA drug purchases, provided that FDA makes the necessary data available in a timely manner.

HEW agreed with the rationale for consolidating all quality assurance responsibilities pertaining to purchases of drugs by the Federal agencies and stated that a single organization should inherently be more efficient and uniformly equitable in administering a quality assurance program.

HEW stated that, in view of the comments from other Departments on the draft report, it believes the immediate objective should be the development of a consolidated quality assurance program which satisfies the needs of all interested parties. The Food and Drug Administration is currently developing an initial concept for that consolidated program based on its assessment of quality assurance requirements.