

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 10627

APPENDIX III



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 18 1973

Mr. Gregory J. Ahart
Director, Manpower and
Welfare Division
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

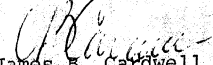
Dear Mr. Ahart:

The Secretary asked that I respond to your letter of June 1 which requested our views and comments on your draft report to the Congress entitled, "Opportunities to Improve the Procurement and Supply of Pharmaceutical Drugs". As you may know, Department officials met with General Accounting Office representatives to discuss the report; in particular, the conclusions reached that the Food and Drug Administration of this Department should assume quality assurance responsibilities pertaining to purchases of pharmaceutical drugs by Federal agencies.

This will confirm for your records that we agreed to discuss this matter with other interested agencies (Defense and Veterans Administration). At such time we will determine their particular requirements; discuss the resources needed; and other like pertinent issues. If, based on these discussions we find it will be in the best interest of the Government to do so, we will take such actions as are necessary to arrange for transfer to FDA all quality assurance responsibilities pertaining to purchases of pharmaceutical drugs by Federal agencies.

The opportunity to review this report in draft form has been much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


James B. Cardwell
Assistant Secretary, Comptroller