

SUPPLY. EARLIER THIS MONTH, WE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AND IN OUR TESTIMONY WE CONCURRED IN THE ASSESSMENT THAT THE NATION'S DRUG SUPPLY IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. AS WE NOTED THEN, NO MATTER HOW PERFECT ANY HUMAN SYSTEM MAY BE, NO MATTER HOW ADVANCED ANY TESTING AND STANDARDS MAY BECOME, THE DRUG INDUSTRY CAN NEVER ACHIEVE, NOR FDA ENFORCE, A "ZERO-DEFECT LEVEL." THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE FDA INDICATE TO US THAT ALL REASONABLE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF QUALITY IN OUR DRUG SUPPLY AS THE PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY PERMITS.

IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE HEARD A NUMBER OF DISQUIETING SPEECHES, AND WE HAVE READ A NUMBER OF DISTURBING ARTICLES -- ALL EMANATING FROM DPSC SPOKESMEN -- WHICH IN TOTO HAVE SERVED TO CAST DOUBTS AND SUSPICION ON VARIOUS UNIDENTIFIED DRUG PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS VARIOUS UNNAMED DRUG MANUFACTURERS. THESE SPEECHES AND ARTICLES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEMS PERTAINING TO UNRELIABLE DRUGS, PRODUCED UNDER SHODDY CONDITION OF MANUFACTURE, ARE WIDELY PREVALENT ON THE AMERICAN DRUG MARKET.

SUCH IMPLICATIONS AND ALLEGATIONS APPEAR TO RUN CONTRARY TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US FROM OTHER SOURCES. MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY SERIOUS NATURE, THESE ASSERTIONS HAVE DEMANDED OUR ATTENTION AND INVESTIGATION.