

12116 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

V. Recommendations

1. There should be established a single system for government-wide management of drugs, medical items and non-perishable subsistence for the Federal Government.

2. The system should utilize the operational competence and capability for purchasing drugs, medical items and non-perishable subsistence now existing in the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration. The corresponding purchasing responsibilities currently being carried out in the General Services Administration and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare should be transferred to DOD and VA.

3. The Administrator of General Services should assume lead responsibility for developing the system through an interagency committee, chaired by GSA, with a membership comprised of representatives of DOD, VA and DHEW, with other affected agencies participating when appropriate. The following actions should be first orders of priority:

a. Duplication and overlapping of purchasing effort should be eliminated by fixing in a single purchasing office all purchasing responsibility for a single family of items.