

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 11953

FDA now has over 1,100 employees working in drug quality assurance programs. This is a public investment approaching \$25 million. Major new policies and procedures are being developed to handle those problems of bioequivalence which exist with a small number of drugs. Our analysis of industry performance in the recent past fails to reveal any systematic problem with a particular segment of the industry. Drug standards and Good Manufacturing Practices standards are increasing in their specificity and scientific excellence. Enforcement activities are becoming more stringent and policies of the FDA more demanding to assure a single standard of performance from all manufacturers. I am reassured and I want to reassure you, that the quality of drugs in this country is consistently high and, current propaganda notwithstanding, will continue to remain so under current Departmental programs.