

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 12265

(e) The application of the quality assurance program now being developed by FDA for the procurement of medical items, stocked and non-stocked.

Much credit is due the task force for this conceptual accomplishment.

5. FDA's Quality Assurance Program. Mr. Brown of DHEW's FDA, answered questions on FDA's written approach to develop the executive branch position for the Government-wide quality assurance program. In the near future, the Committee will be briefed by FDA of its program currently participated in by DOD and VA.

In addition to the FDA briefing, VA and FSS invited the Committee to be briefed on the operations of their procurement and supply systems. These briefings will be helpful to the Committee in carrying out its implementing program.

6. GAO letter of December 10. Committee members were given copies of the GAO letter and asked for their comments on the issues raised by this letter, which in general supports the approach taken by the Committee. The comments will be sent to the Chairman of the Committee for discussion at our next meeting.