

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 12273

in such a manner as to provide the concerned agencies with an understanding of the full extent of the plan they were being asked to accept. Colonel Trimble stated that once he receives the new instructions from the Committee his group could produce the required recommended plan within 60 to 90 days.

3. Discussion of GAO's letter. Mr. Sorett noted that a reply was not necessary; that the letter listed three points that the Committee should direct its attention to; that VA objected to some items and asked the Committee to give the letter consideration. Mr. Thomas Brown indicated that FDA did not respond to the letter, but invited VA to do so. Mr. Donald Whitworth (VA) read to the Committee VA's response to GAO's letter. Mr. Sorett advised that his office had a lengthy meeting with GAO and they were amazed to learn of the cooperation between the agencies. GAO does support our objectives.

4. Discussion of additional task group assignments (Senator Gaylord Nelson's letter dated December 16, 1974). The Committee was advised of Mr. Sorett's meeting with Mr. Ben Gordon, Senator Nelson's economist, and that it is quite possible the Committee would be invited to Senator Nelson's hearings. The Committee was asked to think about answers and offer suggestions how they (Committee) would handle the inquiry. Messrs. Currie and Brown felt an invitation to the