

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 12339

Chronology and Commentary*

Discussions of Drug Research Board Regarding

Drug Prescribing and Drug Substitution

June 1975

At the invitation of the Drug Research Board, a delegate from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association met with a Committee of the Drug Research Board on November 30, 1973. One of the eight items on the agenda for that meeting referred to drug substitution. This matter was later discussed at the March 25, 1974 meeting of the DRB and it was decided that the views of the American Pharmaceutical Association should be solicited.

Thereafter a Committee of the DRB consisting of James Pittman, Jr., M. D. and Hugh Hussey, M. D. met with representatives of the APhA on June 21, 1974 and with a delegate from APhA and the PMA on September 26, 1974.

On October 25, 1974, the DRB in regular session, adopted a resolution on drug substitution and drug prescribing (Exhibit I).

In view of the ambiguous nature of the language in the "Resolved" section of the resolution, clarification was requested in a letter from PMA to Frederick E. Shideman, M. D., in November, 1974. No response was received. On January 21, 1975, a press release on this matter was released by the National Research Council. The

Presented by: C. Joseph Stetler, President, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association --
to complete record of May 16, 1975 Hearing, Monopoly Subcommittee, Senate Small
Business Committee.