organisms—in other words, nonpathogenic bacteria that indicate potential contamination with a disease-producing micro-organism and, we conduct research, including surveys, to define limits or criteria which will establish an acceptable bacteriological standard for the food in question.

We have published in the scientific literature five papers detailing microbiological findings in relation to sanitary conditions prevailing in food-producing plants. Research along these lines is also being conducted by other groups, including industry. We attempt by every means possible to keep informed of such research so that we may utilize results in our enforcement program.

As a result of such research in our laboratories and elsewhere, we will soon be prepared to propose microbiological count standards for several food products. Two of these, cream-type pies and cooked, peeled shrimp, will be proposed and published in the Federal Register in a short period of time. These microbiological standards, utilized in conjunction with rigorous sanitation inspections of the producing plants, will provide a high degree of consumer protection. As additional standards are developed, they will be proposed and published in the Federal Register.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to outline, if I may, the steps FDA is taking to establish procedures which will insure that we are notified of the rejection by other Government agencies of products subject to our jurisdiction.

We are presently engaged in establishing more formal procedures which will better insure that FDA is notified of such rejections by DSA when diversion to consumer channels is a possibility.

We have met with DSA representatives and, as a result of these meetings, DSA has developed proposed revised instructions to its field personnel involved in subsistence rejection procedures. These instructions clearly require reporting to DSA regional centers. The proposed instructions were submitted to FDA for review and comment. We have commented favorably, and have suggested that the next logical step is to establish direct contract channels between their regional centers and the appropriate FDA district offices.

In the discussions between DSA and FDA, we have recognized the need for the development of guidelines which will inform DSA personnel of FDA's responsibilities. We have offered to participate in local level conferences and to reinstate participation by FDA in DSA personnel training programs at Chicago. The details of these arrangements are currently under negotiation.

With respect to drugs, we have asked DSA to explore the possibility of informing FDA of all drug rejections, including in-plant rejections by their own inspectors.

Your investigation, Mr. Chairman, has shown a need for improved communication between FDA and other Federal agencies that purchase foods and drugs. I would like to assure the committee that we will do everything within our capabilities to establish a truly effective system of coordination which will protect the consumer from any adulterated or misbranded foods or drugs rejected by the Government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear today. My colleagues and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you very much. I want to congratulate you for taking what I consider a progressive step forward, as outlined on pages 12 and 13 of your statement; of making recommendations and changes that will protect the American consumer.

It is a sort of anachronism that one agency of government knew that some product was possibly unsafe or unsuitable for consumer use and permitted it to be sold into commercial channels without notifying a sister agency that has relevant responsibilities.

My own personal view of such an event is that the procuring agency, while doing an excellent job for its own people, simply didn't see it as their mission to protect consumers.

I think that with the coordination and procedures you have now established, and with their willingness to cooperate, much will be done.