that it had rejected 18,563 precooked frozen meals produced by the Continental Baking Co.

DSA did not report that rejection to the Department of Agriculture. While failing to meet military specifications the product was judged by a military veterinarian to be wholesome and to meet known consumer standards.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Did you hear Dr. Goddard's testimony?

General LEE. Yes, sir.

Since the product met USDA wholesomeness standards, in our opinion it was not inappropriate for the contractor to sell the meals through the Thrift Store outlet. If he did, we don't know that.

In accordance with our newly refined reporting procedures, however, recurring instances of this type will be reported to the Department of Agriculture official responsible for the establishment in which the item was produced.

Question IIIB(2).—You have asked if the Defense Supply Agency notified the Food and Drug Administration of the rejection of any or of all the drug items furnished the subcommittee.

It was judged that seven of the eight items furnished did not violate the Food and Drug Act. Consequently, the Food and Drug Administration was not notified of these rejections. In one instance—sodium warfarin—the item was returned to the contractor based on a voluntary recall by the firm in response to FDA action. Another item—reserpine tablets—was found to be defective as a result of surveillance inspections performed in storage.

The contractor and FDA were notified that the product failed to meet the USP disintegration test. The contractor has since authorized destruction of the item.

Question IV.—You asked for the DSA comments on the desirability of having bacteriological laboratory tests of processed food items regularly performed by some Federal and State agencies on processed foods intended for private consumer use only.

DSA believes that the regulatory agencies—State and Federal—should use bacteriological laboratory testing as one of the tools to determine whether or not a food processor is producing a consistently sanitary product.

However, it is also believed that the main evidence of wholesomeness or suitability for consumer use should continue to rest with the in-process observations of component materials and plant processes: Time to process, temperature maintained during process, cleanliness, and sanitizing procedures.

Question V.—You asked for comments on the desirability of establishing procedures or practices which would result in consumers of surplus goods being better apprised of the remaining performance life capabilities of shelf life, consumer-type items such as paints, batteries, film, and chemicals.

The Defense Supply Agency performs tests when the recorded shelf life of an item is due to expire. These tests determine if the item is still satisfactory for military use or must be disposed of. If the item is satisfactory, the shelf life time is extended and the item is rescheduled for retesting at a subsequent date.

Our testing procedures do not, however, indicate the life remaining for items not passing the test.