Mr. BROOME: Mr. Chairman, I would like Dr. Morrell's comments on some statements made during the first part of the year in news stories of the *Vancouver Province*. They arose through interviews with a Mr. Jules Gilbert. One of the remarks made—and it has to do with the government—reads as follows:

> The unlawful administration of the Patent Act pertaining to food and drugs is the key to the whole monopoly in drug manufacturing today, for it allows the unlawful patenting of drugs.

How can drugs be patented, if it is unlawful to do so. Is he referring to our act or, perhaps to the American drug act—or, would you care to comment?

Dr. MORRELL: Mr. Chairman, I do not think Mr. Gilbert was referring in any way to the Food and Drug Act; he was talking about patents and infringements of patents on existing drugs. I do not quite know what he meant by referring to packages, unless he meant that we allow them to be sold—I do not know.

Mr. HALPENNY: Do you know if Mr. Gilbert is a Canadian?

Mr. BROOME: No, he is not. The United States story says that he came from New York.

In regard to research, he also had this to say, in reply to the drug company claims that their brand names are the result of costly research, imbued with quality control—and it says that Mr. Gilbert countered with great candor:

The CHAIRMAN: From what are you reading?

Mr. BROOME: From the *Vancouver Province*, under date of approximately January 30 or February 1.

> For one thing, there is no research being done by the big Canadian companies. I know of no research in Canada on drugs.
>
> By quality, they mean that they are complying with a mutually agreed standard that permits them a 30 per cent flaw.

And it goes on to explain it, saying:

> Actually, the tablet can legally have 15 per cent less or 15 per cent more than the prescribed dosage.

Would you care to comment on that?

The CHAIRMAN: I would prefer if you would ask the witness a question, if you have a question, rather than have him comment on it.

Mr. BROOME: All right; I will ask whether that is true, to his knowledge.

Mr. WINCH: Mr. Chairman, I have a question, which is along the same line. Is it true that the administration of your department allows a 15 per cent flaw on whatever it has that is being sold as a drug or a medicine—15 per cent below or above?

Dr. MORRELL: Did you say 50 or 15?

Mr. WINCH: 15.

Dr. MORRELL: Under the Food and Drug Act regulations there is a tolerance plus or minus allowed on the composition of individual tablets. It is not 15 per cent in all cases. It may be 5 per cent but, in manufacturing a tablet, you must have some discrepancy above and below permitted, because the machinery which makes the tablet is not exact. What we mean by this is that when we examine a tablet, if the single tablet is within the prescribed tolerance—and it is 5 per cent, in some cases, and in some cases it is 10 per cent plus or minus—if it runs from 95 per cent to 105 per cent of the stated potency, we say that tablet is not in violation. Now, when you examine a number of tablets—let us say 20 tablets—the average of these 20 tablets should be on the mark or near it, because we mean as much above as below. So, when we