legislation reinforcing aspects of our drug-control provisions. The changes in our Food and Drugs Act provided authority to impose additional controls on the distribution of drug samples, authorized the prohibition of the sale of a drug, and emphasized that new drugs require special consideration.

"Our aim is also safety when we require that a manufacturer take every precaution possible in introducing a new drug. There must be quality control, exhaustive animal and clinical testing and the provision of detailed information to the medical profession.

"It is also the responsibility of government to maintain a staff competent to administer the food and drug legislation. The job of this staff is to provide adequate technical advice, conduct analyses and tests of drugs, do research and carry out field inspections....

MANUFACTURERS' RESPONSIBILITY

"Some seem to think that too much onus is placed on the companies and not enough collaborating research is performed by the policing agency. Our firm conviction is that we must insist a manufacturer accept full responsibility for something he puts his name on and sells to the general public. Any softening of this conviction could result in the weakening of one of the principal elements of our control programme for the protection of the public.

"This does not mean our responsibility is lessened or that we are relying on the companies to do everything. Our job is to see – to insist – that the companies do their job and, from time to time, to check on their work, and to carry on sufficient research and investigation in our own establishment to be able to not only check the work of the manufacturer but to form well-based opinion on the quality of the work being done with a special eye open to possible dangers to the consumer.

"Under the present system, manufacturers are required to submit detailed reports on the development and testing of drugs – tracing this process through laboratory and clinical stages. Our experts can – and do – detect shortcomings by scrutinizing these reports. They then require supplementary information.

"To have our people retrace the experiments already conducted by the manufacturers would be cumbersome and unnecessary. It would mean a gigantic staff, needless repetition, huge cost, and, in effect, might lead to eventual subsidization of the industry. I don't think we could justify this to the taxpayer.

A GOOD SYSTEM

"The present system has worked well. Our Food and Drugs Act is second to none in the world. It has been used as a model by the World Health Organization. It sometimes takes years for drugs to win approval of the food and drug experts – some never do. Companies are repeatedly asked for additional information.

"In the last 11 years, the Food and Drug Directorate has passed some 2,000 new drugs through its screening process with results that were not questioned until very recently. In other words, every possible care now is taken to ensure that Canadians are protected. And the system now used appears to be working.

"But there can be improvements in any undertaking. We are looking to this special committee to make valuable suggestions for such improvements....

"Last August, I announced to the provinces that the Government stood ready to share the cost of rehabilitation of thalidomide victims. Since then, a number of fact-finding groups have been working to add to federal and provincial knowledge of the problems in this sphere. The expert committee on habilitation reported last week....

"There is one point that should be stressed – the problem of drug controls, and the constant exchange of technical information that is needed to make such controls completely effective, is not Canada's alone. Nations in many parts of the world have turned their attention to it in recent months.

"Before the thalidomide stories had gained prominence in our newspapers, the Canadian Government took action that could have far-reaching results.

"It initiated and co-sponsored a special resolution on drugs at the World Health General Assembly in Geneva. It is hoped that the resolution will lead to an improvement in the exchange of drug information among nations of the world, and further the standardization of procedures regarding new drugs. Prompt, world-wide exchange of information of new drug developments would help to a great degree in preventing the recurrence of a thalidomide tragedy....

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THE BARD AND THE DUKE

Duke Ellington has agreed to compose the score for "Timon of Athens," one of the four plays that will be offered this summer during the Stratford Festival's eleventh season. Director Peter Coe, who recently confirmed this arrangement, also said that a contemporary setting, with modern clothes designed by Brian Jackson, would be given to the Shakespearean drama of greed and ingratitude in ancient Greece.

This will be the first time that a Shakespearean play has been given purely contemporary treatment in the Festival Theatre, though both "All's Well That Ends Well" (1953) and the first production of "The Taming of the Shrew" (1954) were staged in costumes dating from the turn of the century.

The participation of "The Duke" in the 1963 season is a further expression of the interest and affection he has held for the Festival since he first appeared in Stratford with his orchestra in the 1956 jazz concerts. The next year, he composed "Such Sweet Thunder," a suite dedicated to "the Shakespearean Festival, Stratford, Ontario," which was given its world première at a "Music for Moderns" concert in New York's Town Hall in April 1957. The following summer, on his return to Stratford for a special concert, Ellington introduced the suite, which takes its title from a line in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", into the Festival's music season.