This can be done very easily with residues, if you can trace them back to the same field. Most of these efficiently operated companies could.

Mr. MORRELL: I agree that if you have a label and code number it is much easier to trace that product than just to have a head of lettuce or something like that on the shelves.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions?

Mr. CURRAN: I presume this point has already been covered, but in case it has not, it might be useful to point out that food and drug regulations do contain very elaborate provisions with respect to tolerances which certain foods might bear, and so it becomes an offence to sell a food which contains one of these substances in excess of the tolerance which is set out. There is a clear offence established once the substance exceeds the permitted tolerance. I thought it useful to point that out in the context of Dr. Morrell's statement as regards his enforcement procedures.

Mr. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Mr. Curran following up the point I made before. I notice that section 37 of the Food and Drug Act gives authority to make regulations providing for the issuing of licences for the importation, manufacture or sale. Is that a licence in respect of a drug or a licence in respect of the person who sells the drug? My question deals with controlled drugs.

Mr. CURRAN: You are now referring to controlled drugs. This is a licence to deal in controlled drugs. This is not a licence to the individual, to control his activities; it is only in relation to that portion of his activities which relates to controlled drugs. We are not licensing him as a manufacturer at large but merely limiting his use of controlled drugs.

Mr. BALDWIN: I wonder if you could give some thought to the question I raised. This has been brought up before and I do not know what the view of the committee may finally be, but I am sure that before we make any recommendations we ought to be sure that we are within our rights as members of the federal parliament in making such recommendations. This question of licensing has been raised on a number of occasions. It would be proper to know the possible limits on which we can base our recommendations. Perhaps you would have a chance to consider this point some time before we are finished.

May I ask Dr. Morrell a question? I had hoped I could have the transcript of the proceedings of our last meeting, but I know it is not possible. There was an answer given by Mr. Miller on the extent to which the food and drug directorate had advanced their research with regard to pesticides. I do not know if any other member of the committee recalls his answer, but it was, generally speaking, that certain sufficient research had been made so that there was a reasonable position to be adopted on the question of residues not being harmful to human health. I am trying to summarize it fairly accurately. I wonder if Dr. Morrell would like to comment on that and say to what extent research has been done and if he would deal with this particular subject matter.

Mr. MORRELL: Mr. Chairman, I think Dr. Coon in his statement and subsequent replies to questions indicated quite clearly that you cannot guarantee with absolute assurance anything in this field; that people have not lived long enough with specified residues to be absolutely sure. However, in so far as evidence goes today, if the food product has no greater residue on it than the tolerances that have been provided, there should be no harm to the consumer over very long periods of time. I must point out, of course, that this evidence is largely gained from experiments on animals, and then a fairly large safety factor is applied and other factors are brought into the calculation of the maximum permitted level. The results obtained on animals are the basis for the