

set forth the formula and say this meets certain specifications or certain pharmacopoeia. But, if this were the case, I think the professions would be in a better position, at least the pharmacists, to judge these products.

Mr. MORRELL: If it is a pharmacopoeial drug in any of these pharmacopoeia it should have on there U.S.P., B.P., French Codex, British Pharmaceutical Codex, and so on. It should have on there, as I said, such and such a drug, U.S.P., or whatever it is.

Mr. SLOGAN: It should have its generic name?

Mr. MORRELL: Yes, on the label. As you know, a great many drugs are not official drugs. We call those drugs that are in the pharmacopoeia official drugs. But, so many new drugs which are being developed have not yet been placed in the pharmacopoeia and a great many do not get in there. Therefore, the only standard really that is available is the standard of the manufacturer, and he has to put the composition on the label. We check it to see that it meets that standard which he claims for it. We check it to see that it meets the composition claimed for it; that is, the manufacturer's own standard. I know it sounds very confusing, but this is the situation which exists.

Mr. SLOGAN: I think I am getting the clear picture, but I believe it still points out the necessity for a certain amount of policing, because if the form and composition are the same, the quality not necessarily is the same.

Mr. MORRELL: In the art or the science of this, we can learn a great deal more about the constituents which go into the drugs; they are not altogether inert. As you say, policing is very good. That is the job we try to do.

Mr. MACKASEY: In respect of drugs being brought into the country which are packaged for sale to consumers, are there any policing methods through the customs branch to make sure that not only is the country of origin specified, but also the ingredients?

Mr. MORRELL: If a drug is brought in, packaged and ready for sale, we have an opportunity to see it at the customs, and we do take samples there and hold it for testing; or we can let it go through customs and go to the distributor. There will be a distributor in this country. We can take samples for testing there and, of course, the label is examined at the time the drug is tested. This is part of our program. I cannot say we get every drug which comes in, but I think we get a fair sampling of them. We are trying very hard to increase the number of samples we take, particularly of the imported drugs.

Mr. MACKASEY: You are talking about a sampling of the quality of the drug.

Mr. MORRELL: Yes; the composition, the physiological availability, the disintegration time of the tablet—if it is a tablet—and the labelling of it. These are things we do examine against certain methods we have in our own laboratory.

Mr. MACKASEY: Quite often products in other fields are stopped at the border because the producer forgot to label it with the country of origin.

Mr. MORRELL: We want the country of origin; that is part of the law. It must be on the label.

Mr. MACKASEY: Do the normal customs officers realize the importance of this to the point that they will stop drugs as well as anything else?

Mr. MORRELL: Yes; I think so. We do not have a food and drug inspector at every customs port. I am not sure how many there are, but there are hundreds of ports, I believe. We do have an arrangement with the customs officers that when a shipment of drugs comes in they notify our nearest