

Mr. WINCH: I understand that; but where you have made any examination where you have found that the amount of whatever it is in the tablets, is above, does the same situation apply? And if the report in the province is correct where it is maintained, or where it goes as high as 15 per cent above, do you take similar action then? And is it possible, because there is that 50 per cent over—is there a possibility of its being dangerous to the person who takes that tablet or drug?

Dr. MORRELL: The action taken would depend on what drug we are talking about. There are some drugs when it might be dangerous to take a 15 per cent overage. There are not many, but there are some.

But if we were talking about ASA tablets, and we found them 15 per cent above after we had examined them, probably we would point this out to the manufacturer and we would take no further action than that. We would write to him and point it out; and I have no doubt that he would correct it.

And if it were below, we would do the same thing. There is no harm being done if it is below or above in the case of some drugs, because a person is not sensitive enough to know the difference; the difference would not have any effect.

Mr. WINCH: Have you at any time had brought to your attention a case of some preparation which might be dangerous?

Dr. MORRELL: Yes, we have taken off the market some samples where it was 145 per cent over the labeled potency, because it was definitely a hazard; and these have been taken off the market.

Mr. CATHERS: I would like to refer to this chicken business. Dr. Morrell said that the only way he could test whether diethylstilbesterol was used in feeding, was in the neck of the chicken.

Dr. MORRELL: Not in feeding but in implantation.

Mr. CATHERS: Is that the way they are circumventing your regulations, by sending in cut up chicken, but not the neck?

Dr. MORRELL: To determine the presence of diethylstilbesterol in a chicken leg or a chicken breast without other evidence would require a biological test. It would be a biological test on animals, immature rats in this case; and it would require two weeks and several hundred rats. The test itself would detect it; it is very sensitive. It will detect perhaps 30 parts per billion parts of chicken. We could examine a few samples. I do not know how many, sir. You can see the practical difficulty in controlling the use of diethylstilbesterol in this way.

Mr. WINCH: What would be the effect?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cathers has the floor.

Mr. CATHERS: Can you give us any idea of the poundage that is refused entry into Canada?

Dr. MORRELL: There were no pounds refused this year; that may be because the United States food and drug administration also have forbidden its use; they have asked that it not be used, and the manufacturers have withdrawn their supply. I do not have the figures of past years, but it was more prominent in our work about three years ago than it has been in recent years.

Mr. CATHERS: According to the figures indicated by the Department of Agriculture in January there were about 800,000 lbs. of cut up chicken brought into this country. I was trying to investigate it from the standpoint of dumping, and this could be the answer, and could indicate the need to prevent it; because as it is injurious to health to eat chicken that has had diethylstilbesterol injected, or however you use it, we are being subjected to these foods, and they are not in proper condition.