Mr. WIGHTMAN: Mr. Chairman, one way of doing this is, of course, to create some system of licensing so that the manufacturing processes are inspected. What you are talking about is really quality control, ensuring that the manufacturing process is done in a uniform fashion so that the drugs will be produced to predictable quality and will be uniform from batch to batch, month to month. This is what one would expect to find in respect of a reputable company which for its own sake is doing its best to produce just such a product. This is what one would hope to see enforced by one means or another in respect of all drug manufacturers. One way of doing this would be by a licensing and inspection system such as is now carried out in respect of biological materials manufactured. It would seem to me, however, to be perhaps impossible or impractical to have the food and drug directorate actually test every batch. I do not think that directorate should take over the function of quality control for the various manufacturers. I think it should interest itself in the procedures of all drug manufacturers.

Mr. SLOGAN: In order that a practitioner in some small backwoods town will know that a drug does meet certain specifications set down by perhaps his own association, do you think the food and drug administration, in co-operation with the bodies that use these drugs, could ask the manufacturers to indicate on the label, once these drugs have passed certain specifications, that they have met certain specifications set down, for example, by the Canadian Medical Association? That doctor would then know that a drug was safe even though it might be sold under a generic name and not be a well known brand.

Mr. WIGHTMAN: Such a program would still involve inspection. Someone would have to undertake to make sure that such was the actual case in the manufacturing plant.

Mr. SLOGAN: Do you feel that the food and drug directorate could carry out such an inspection?

Mr. WIGHTMAN: I think that is a reasonable thing for that directorate to do. Obviously it could not do it as it is set up now, but I would think it a good thing if it could do that.

Mr. SLOGAN: Has your association taken any stand in this regard? I suppose you have taken such a stand in these statements which you have made.

Mr. MACKASEY: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Do you imply in your statements that you believe this type of inspection would only be possible under a licencing system?

Mr. WIGHTMAN: That is really a question for the lawyers. I do not know.

Mr. MACKASEY: In your opening remarks you mentioned the advisability of having manufacturers licensed so that immediately there would be some control in respect of specific drugs.

Mr. WIGHTMAN: That is one way of doing this.

Mr. MACKASEY: I infer perhaps wrongly from your remarks that as long as they are not licensed there is no limitation or standard in respect of the manufacturers operation. Am I right in this regard?

Mr. WIGHTMAN: I think that is true. I think the only standard that is defined under the act is that which provides that a product may be examined from time to time either in a sporadic way or as a result of some complaint and an analysis made to find out whether or not it complies with the specifications. There are certain things which are important in respect of a drug but which are not readily specified. That is to say, in regard to the absence of certain trace materials, the way the tablets are compressed if they are tablets and all manner of other things besides the actual amount of stated ingredients that are present. All these things need to be controlled as well as the amount of drug.