legislation can be summarized as follows:

1) A National Drug Testing and Evaluation Center is to be established which will be responsible for the testing of all drugs, both prescription and over-the-counter, that are now or will be marketed in the United States. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must give approval prior to testing drugs on human beings, and the results and conclusions of all tests will be made public. In order for a new drug to be approved, it must be demonstrated that the new drug is safer or more effective than a drug already on the market. As it has been the manufacturer's responsibility in the past to bear the expense of a drug's testing, he will continue to bear the expense. However, there will be channels open for appeal if the manufacturer is dissatisfied with the testing procedure.

2) Provision is made for the publication of a compendium which will list all drugs available in the United States by both generic and brand names. Such a compendium would include, for each drug, the drug's purpose, side effects, dosages available, and cost, as well as other relevant information. As such a compendium could eliminate the need for inserts with full prescribing information now required, the cost of the compendium would be borne by the drug industry. Supplements will be issued from time to time to keep the compendium as up-to-date as possible, and it is also provided that all drug labeling and advertising must conform with the information found in the compendium.

3) A committee is to be established which will compile a formulary of drugs necessary for good medical practice, for purposes of direct procurement by the federal government and reimbursement for all government-financed programs, indicating the best drug available for each generic type, in order to assist the physician in his prescribing of medication.

4) All drugs produced and packaged in the United States are to be inspected and approved so as to protect the public health. Furthermore, every drug would be labeled in such a way as to identify its source and generic type, to facilitate the tracking down of defective drug batches. In addition, all drugs will have instructions for safe use printed on their package.

5) The secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) is to be given the authority to require batch-by-batch certification of all drugs—when needed—which will include provisions prescribing standards and identity of strength, quality and purity, tests and methods to determine compliance with such standards, and other measures necessary for the public good.

6) The distribution of sample drugs is to be prohibited without the written request of the physician. Furthermore, the sale of sample drugs, either directly or indirectly, is prohibited.

7) Potentially dangerous drugs are to be labeled with the appropriate warning. Labeling of drugs will be required so that all active ingredients will be clearly labeled. No drug salesman shall make any oral presentation regarding any drug until he has placed before the physician or pharmacist an FDA-approved document about the drug. The secretary of HEW shall approve all advertising in advance that appears in either the electronic media, or in any publication or advertising circular, for any drug. The secretary will approve only advertising which does not mislead or misrepresent the product, either in text or layout.

The Omnibus Drug Bill has been referred to the Health Subcommittee of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. Interested parties should write to Senator Edward Kennedy (D–Mass.), chairman of the subcommittee, urging that hearings be scheduled.

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New Maser at Haystack

The Haystack Observatory, under the guidance of Sigfrid Yngvesson of the University of Massachusetts, is presently completing the development of a maser preamplifier, tunable from 21.5 to 23.7 Ghz, with instantaneous bandwidth better than 12 Mhz. The initial installation is expected to yield a system temperature on the order of 150° to 200°K. As development proceeds, wider bandwidths and lower system temperatures are anticipated.

Provided on-line tests of the system, scheduled for February 1973, proceed as expected, the new system should be available on the Haystack antenna beginning in April 1973 during periods when the radiometer equipment box (R-Box) is installed on the antenna. The R-Box alternates with a second equipment box, the so-called planetary radar box (PR-Box). The detailed box schedule depends primarily on observing requirements.

The Haystack Observatory is operated under agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology by the Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation, with primary support of its research from the National Science Foundation and NASA. Inquiries and requests for observing time with the new system should be addressed to the director at the address below.

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Technological Advance

Scientists distressed by delays between submission of their manuscripts and publication may be interested in two historical precedents. Sigmund Freud decided to order a supply of cocaine from the pharmaceutical firm of Merck on or about 21 April 1884. By 18 June he had received the cocaine, tried it out on himself and two patients, and completed his first report. It was published in the July 1884 issue of the *Centralblatt für die gesammte Therapie* (*1*).

Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen caught his first glimpse of x-ray effects on 8 November 1895. He delivered the manuscript announcing his discovery to the secretary of the Physical-Medical Society of Würzburg on 28 December 1895, just in time for the December issue of the *Proceedings* of that society; he received reprints in time for mailing to other physicists on New Year's Day of 1896 (*2*).

Freud and Roentgen, alas, lacked the benefits of today's computerized phototypsetters, high-speed presses, and other technological advances. They also had to make do without a hierarchy of review and editorial procedures to facilitate publication of their manuscripts.

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1. E. M. Brecher and the editors of *Consumer Reports, Licit and Illicit Drugs: The Consumer Union Report on Narcotics, Stimulants, Depressants, Inhalants, Hallucinogens, and Marijuana (including Caffeine, Nicotine, and Alcohol)* (Little, Brown, Boston, 1972), pp. 272–273.
2. E. M. Brecher, *The Rays: A History of Radiology in the United States and Canada* (Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1969), pp. 8–9.