

the list? There are others. While some of these matters might be worked out under the broad administrative power of the Health Department, I believe they should be spelled out in any measure enacted by the Legislature.

From the testimony which was produced before me at the hearing on this bill, it seems clear that any list would have to be made up of drugs that have been tested to be sure that the results are equal with brand name drugs. Such testing would in my opinion be an expensive proposition to the State, possibly costing more than could be saved by the use of generic drugs. On this same subject the Commissioner of Health informs me that statements as to the possible savings under this bill are misleading since there is no way to tell which drugs would be on the list and thereby compute the money that could be saved.

The strongest reason for my reservation of approval is the almost total opposition which was raised by the medical profession and related fields. This is important and significant because it is the physician who is responsible for the care and treatment of his patient. It is he who must prescribe the drug which he feels will be the one which will produce the most rapid recovery. It is to him that the patient will look when the results are not satisfactory and health is not restored as completely or as quickly as the patient might expect. And it is the physician, and such agencies as the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, the State Health Department, the Board of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland School of Pharmacy, to whom I must look for expert advice and counsel on such a subject. Their complete and unanimous opposition was clear. In the face of this, it would be hard to justify approval on my part until such time as all the problems of the procedure are worked out and hard facts are available to substantiate the claims of the bill's supporters.

I would suggest that the matter be thoroughly studied in the coming year and that every effort be made to cooperate with the Federal authorities who are now studying the equivalency question. Federal regulations are expected within the year on this very subject. The State would be prudent in waiting until these regulations are forthcoming before stepping out in a direction which may not be a wise choice.

For the above reasons I am compelled to veto this measure.

Sincerely,

(s) SPIRO T. AGNEW,

Governor.

House Bill No. 714—Contractors for State Contracts

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 270 (a), 270(b) (1), 270(b) (3), 270(b) (4), 270(b) (5), 270(h) (1), 270(h) (2), 270(j), 270(o), 270(r), 270(s), 270(u) and 270(y) and to repeal in its entirety Section 270(t) and to enact a new Section 270(t) in lieu thereof and to stand in the place of the repealed section of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967