physical therapy. But there would be no systematic investigation of the boy's emotions or family life. Socialist psychotherapy was, and for the most part still is, a counseling affair with the therapist offering his patient moral support and telling him what to do.

That pattern is now changing and Eastern psychiatrists are reaching for modern Western techniques. Dr. Jus, herself, for example, recently translated into Polish a French book on psychodynamics, written by Dr. Leon Chertok who started the whole process of the East-West exchange. Freud is still taboo, but the tradition he began is being rapidly accepted.

Conversely, the United States is reaching for community services of the kind that have been highly developed in Eastern Europe. The two blocs, psychiatrically speaking, are moving toward each other.

And there are many to mediate the move. The Chicago conference ended on an upbeat—with a continental embrace between Drs. Ackerman and Jus. It was an appropriate gesture, since the representatives from Western Europe, Turkey, Greece and Israel had been softening the East-West confrontation all along.

"I think Dr. Jus' approach inhibited free expression in the patients," commented Dr. Orhan M. Osturk of Turkey, "but the way Dr. Ackerman told the husband he was blushing also inhibited the man's expression."

Dr. Osturk is familiar with U.S. psychiatry and aware as well that it cannot be transplanted whole to another society. His own answer has been a blend of Freudian emotional stripping and the supportive, authoritative techniques that are necessary for the more traditional Turkish culture.

"We are people from different countries and we don't agree," said Greece's Dr. George Vassiliou. But, he said, the conference will not be a one-shot affair. "All of us have plans for meeting again; we have started a process."

The comments of Scotland's Dr. J. K. W. Morrice, however, deliberately chosen to close the conference, sealed an East-West reconciliation:

"Britain used to be a world power," he said. "Now it is a small island, set in a cold sea between two Goliaths," with the task of mediating differences. There are stereotypes on both sides, said Dr. Morrice.

Europeans, on one hand, consider Americans "psychoanalytically oriented beyond words." Americans, on the other, view European psychiatrists as "kind of effete and rather tired, more rigid and lacking in vigor." The truth is, he said, "We are brave people wherever we are because we stick our noses into other people's lives."

Drug Prices Under Scrutiny

In New York City, 500 tablets of a common tranquilizer costs $9.45. In Atlanta, the same 500 tablets costs $31.20.

A potent antibiotic costs New Yorkers $25.95, but Chicagoans can't buy it for less than $50.00.

The price of drugs varies as much as a staggering 4,000 percent from city to city.

The high cost of drugs—one witness blamed price-fixing—is under Senate investigation in what could be a repetition of the 1962 assault on the powerful pharmaceutical industry by the late Senator Estes Kefauver.

The lengthy probe of drug houses and drug regulations opened in Washington last week when the Senate Select Small Business Monopoly Subcommittee heard testimony that the poor pay more for medicine than the rich and that brand name products are generally twice as expensive as their generic counterparts.

Subcommittee chairman Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) does not expect to settle the long-standing brand-versus-generic controversy. His investigative subcommittee is seeking public exposure and information that may be the basis of recommended legislation for a pricing scheme for drugs. The panel does not itself originate legislation.

But the record Nelson is building will have its impact when the Senate Finance Committee takes up the Administration's Social Security bill—possibly by mid-June. Its hearings are also expected to cover legislation introduced by Senator Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.) to bring drugs under Medicare benefits (SN: 4/22). Senator Montoya's bill calls for generic prescribing and purchasing of drugs for Medicare patients when those drugs are of proven quality.

Similar legislation introduced by Finance Committee chairman Russell Long (D-La.) requires low-cost generic prescribing of all drugs bought under Social Security programs.

Both the Montoya and Long bills provide for a Formulary Committee, headed by the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, to determine which specific drugs are of a reasonable quality and which are not, and whether a drug sold under its generic name is as good as its branded cousin. And that's the rub.

FDA cannot now guarantee that all drugs are of equally high quality, regardless of how they are named or prescribed. Commissioner James L. Goddard concedes that FDA cannot prove that drugs licensed for the same purpose are necessarily therapeutically equivalent. Virtually imperceptible differences in a drug's formulation can determine how it is absorbed or metabolized by a patient. Without a formulary committee backed by clinical tests, the question of equivalency of one drug to another remains unanswered.

But supporters of inexpensive generic rather than high-price brand name buying assume equivalency, and that drugs made by different manufacturers can be identical.

At least, this is the premise from which many economy-minded Federal and state officials charged with drug-

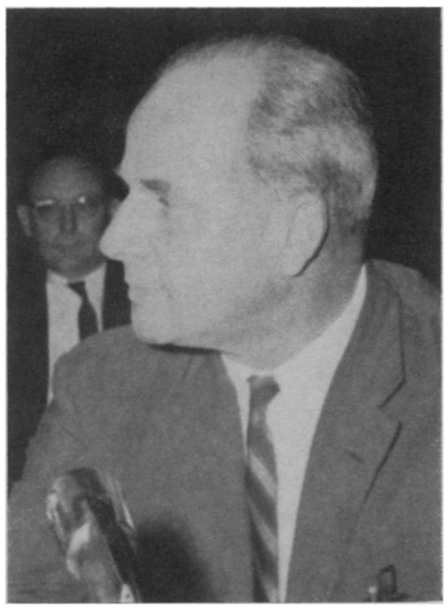
THORAZINE AND COMPAZINE
INTERNATIONAL PRICE COMPARISONS
PRICE TO DRUGGIST

	Paris	London	Bonn	Mexico City	Rio de Janeiro	United States
THORAZINE						
10 mg. 100's		$ .70				$ 4.26
10 mg. 500's		2.85				20.24
25 mg. 100's	$1.08	1.08	$2.40	$4.80	$2.53	6.06
25 mg. 500's		4.75	9.45		9.98	28.79
50 mg. 100's		2.06				7.26
50 mg. 500's		9.05				34.20
100 mg. 100's	3.16	3.96				9.66
100 mg. 500's		16.94			19.97	46.32
COMPAZINE						
10 mg. 100's	$1.75		$1.95			$ 7.86
10 mg. 500's			6.68			37.34
5 mg. 100's		$ 1.88		$4.00	$2.00	6.06
5 mg. 500's		8.64				28.79
5 mg. 5000's		84.00				243.00
25 mg. 50's	1.35	2.33			1.90	5.13
25 mg. 500's		21.00				48.73

buying work. Representatives of government agencies as well as various citizens groups testified last week.

U.S. Comptroller General Elmer Staats told the Senate millions of tax dollars could be saved annually if generics rather than brands were used to fill welfare prescriptions. Between 1964 and 1966 emphasis on generic prescribing for Veterans Administration patients saved $1 million.

At the same time, however, he pointed out that all VA drugs are subjected to rigorous quality tests before they are used.



Sen. Nelson: price-fixing investigator.

In a strong attack on drug houses as the "last of the robber barons," another witness called on the Senate to "restrict the greed of the drug industry." William H. Haddad, one-time associate director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, said the government and the public are being cheated. He suggested that the FBI investigate pricing practices of certain drug companies.

International price discrepancies were the target of testimony from New York State Comptroller Arthur Levitt who criticized an American firm for charging Americans up to five times the world price for Thorazine, a tranquilizer that dramatically calms the mentally ill. Americans pay $6.06 for Thorazine tablets Londoners and Parisians buy for $1.08 (see chart).

The manufacturer, Smith Kline & French, argues that drugs, like everything else made in a foreign country, generally cost less than the same product made by American labor.

No representatives of the drug industry have been slated to testify as yet; U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark has asked the subcommittee to postpone industry testimony. He doesn't want publicity to influence the course of several price-fixing conspiracy cases now in court.

In June, the Nelson subcommittee will hear other witnesses, including Harvard pharmacologist Richard Burack, author of "The Handbook of Prescription Drugs." Dr. Burack's book, which sparked the hearings, is advertised as a guide to generic buying.

Patent Reform Slowed

In the face of growing opposition to the Administration's patent reform bill, committee spokesmen on both sides of the Capitol are predicting no action in this session of Congress.

As hearings continue, opposition to the major features of the bill is crystallizing. The American Patent Law Association has come out specifically against the proposal that patents be issued to the first person to file an application, instead of the present first-to-invent system. Similar action was taken two weeks earlier by the Patent Section of the American Bar Association.

The lawyers' objections represent by and large the viewpoint of private inventors and small companies. Major companies with important international trade are more likely to go along with the change to the first-to-file system, which would bring the U.S. into line with most foreign patent systems and help to ease the multiple-filing problem.

Along with objections to the first-to-file proposal, the law groups also oppose the proposed elimination of a year's grace period. Under present law, an inventor has a year to try out his invention before applying for a patent. If someone else publishes the same invention or gets a patent for it, the original inventor also has a year to claim that he came up with the idea first. If he proves it, the patent goes to him.

The proposed law eliminates the grace period, and substitutes a preliminary application provision. Under this system, the inventor, for a small fee, could send in an informal technical description of his invention, establish his early filing date with that, and within a year make a formal application for a patent if the idea develops. This would save money, since only inventions that were worth following up would require the several hundred dollars in lawyer's fees that a formal application costs.

The patent lawyers say there are two things wrong with the preliminary application system:

- Even though informal, the preliminary form would have to describe the invention completely in order to cover the inventor in establishing an early date for filing. This means, they say, that a lawyer should draw it up, involving a high cost for the preliminary form and another for the formal one.
- Many an inventor tries out his product first. If it's a financial success he approaches a lawyer to seek a patent. Under the present law, he has a year to do this, but the proposed law would mean he could get no patent.

These pretested inventions would be patentable under an amendment to the Administration bill proposed by Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.). This amendment would grant a "personal" grace period, during which the inventor could first publish or try out his invention without risking his patent.

Patent Commissioner Edward J. Brenner is prepared to accept the Long amendment as a compromise.

But the Patent Law Association remains adamant. It feels that both the full grace period and the first-to-invent provisions are essential to the patent system.

Ph.D.s for NASA

In its present time of trial, the national space agency could hardly hope to see its massive budget of more than $5 billion get through Congress unscathed.

Yet the first real blast of displeasure from cost-cutters on the House space committee—together with an unrequested gift of $10 million—was directed not at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's rich tastes but at one of its few efforts to save money.

NASA proposed to trim its Sustaining University Program, started in 1962 to provide an increased supply of Ph.D.s for the space effort. The program's appropriations are divided among training, facilities and research. Since its peak year of fiscal 1966, however, when the agency gave it $46 million, it has been receiving less and less backing, particularly in the training area for which it was originally intended.

The research portion of the SUP's budget dropped only slightly from $12.86 million in fiscal 1966 to $11 million the following year, and to $10 million in the current request. But the allotment for Ph.D. training has fallen from $25 million to $7 million.

"The policy to phase out the program has been made without any firm knowledge, but merely the hope that programs of the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Office of Educa-