CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAIRMAN: I should like to offer members’ sincere thanks for all those delegates who presented papers at the symposium.

I have become aware during the symposium of quite a significant change in our approach to the question of dope detection. First of all we recognise the importance of including people in discussions of this kind who are not simply employed at the bench for analysing samples for dope. I think this request for the co-operation of the veterinary profession and indeed other people interested in other aspects of doping, not only in the horse, has proved most beneficial. I feel also we have recognised we can no longer live on the bounty of the past and on the pioneer work that was done in the early part of this century. Perhaps one of the most significant things that has appeared in the last few years as an example of the changing attitude is the recognition that apomorphine when given to a horse can in no way be simulated by adding apomorphine to a urine sample. I think this emphasises that the horse is not just a machine for diluting and contaminating drugs, it is a living biological system and we have to recognise it as such. Many of the papers we have heard at this meeting have done this, and it is an important advance.

This meeting is the first of its kind bringing together many Western European countries and I personally feel a great regret we have not had more time to pursue these discussions. However we have made a start and I hope we can agree that it has been useful and hopefully we can have other such meetings in the future. I have been asked to say in this connection that Professor Bryans in conjunction with the Kentucky State Racing Commission is planning to hold a symposium in Kentucky next year.

I want to draw some brief conclusions from this symposium which perhaps we can produce as a document from these Laboratories and send to delegates for submission to their own racing authorities. I would like to put to this meeting that it has been a scientifically valuable meeting and has given us facilities for exchanging information of abuse which we would not have been able to exchange in any other way. Personal meetings and discussion are invaluable and I feel this should be conveyed to our authorities. Following from that it is in the interests of our work and the authorities we represent that regular such meetings should take place in the future.

I should now like to go through the recommendations made by the veterinary section via Major Witherington.

1) That national rules should be circulated by the various secretariats.

2) Clinical examinations should be carried out.

3) Information on drug metabolism should be published in the scientific literature.

4) There should be uniformity for secure packaging and labelling of samples.