

When questioned, however, Eiermann acknowledged that Johnson & Johnson talc, which comes from the company's own mines in Vermont, has been found to be virtually free of asbestos. No tests have been conducted on animals using talc from New York State, which is used in some powders and which generally contains more asbestos than Vermont talc. The FDA, he said, has no plans for such tests.

"Let me go to the housewife in my district," Macquire replied. "She goes into the store and she sees 9 types of talc lined up on the shelves. How is she to know which ones are safe?"

"We cannot test every sample," Eiermann replied.

#