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Crane, Nancy T**From:** John Polifronio [counterpnt@earthlink.net]**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2002 2:47 PM**To:** Crane, Nancy T**Subject:** What is this?02-022N
02-022N-458
John Polifronio

Do I understand what I've been hearing correctly?

Does the U.S. Government intend to intrude on my access to "vitamins?" Have you gone mad?

I demand to know, on whose behalf such dictatorial nonsense is being attempted against the people of this nation.

It is common knowledge, that seafood is, everywhere, contaminated with mercury and other poisons; why are you not contemplating that people be compelled to obtain the advice and prescriptions of doctors, before they consume fish?

Why are you not requiring that people obtain a prescription from a doctor, before they are allowed to smoke cigarettes, or drink alcoholic beverages. Don't these universally consumed substances carry a potential for abuse and dangerous consequences to the health and safety of the population?

Are we to suppose, that the rapidly increasing numbers of so called "alternative" doctors, and an increasing number of "orthodox" doctors, that routinely advise their patients to take dietary and nutritional supplements, have been doing so without knowing that they were exposing their patients to "risks," while the FDA does know this? Why haven't any of the doctors I've gone to, many of whom advised me to take supplements, done so, without having to write a prescription in the process? Is it that it didn't occur to them to consult with certain figures in the FDA to find out about the dangers to which they were exposing their patients? I've been told by two cardiologists, to take Vitamin E, and neither of them revealed any concern that they should write a prescription before they gave me this advice. Is the FDA implying that these two cardiologists acted against my best interests in failing to require of me that I obtain a formal prescription before they could advise me to take E?

I've been taking dietary supplements, daily, for 35 years and have seen my health "improve," without once having had those supplements "prescribed" by a physician. I have known dozens of people that take such supplements, some longer than I've been taking them, and have yet to hear of a single case where someone suffered harmful consequences from their use.

There are literally hundreds of nutritional supplements that people take, routinely, in our nation. Am I to understand, that I'll have to get a prescription from a doctor, to take each and every one of them? Are vitamins something that will end up being easily accessible only to the rich, who are able to play this expensive game, with financial impunity? What a transparently Orwellian and crass manipulation this is.

I demand to know, specifically, who are the people in the FDA, that are responsible for pushing this totalitarian proposal on us. Who and which are the forces, behind the scene, that are urging this on government officials? Who profits from this proposed action?

sincerely
John Polifronio
Los Angeles