

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 13659

(STATEMENT BY

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(CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

(BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

(JULY 10, 1975)

Honorable Gaylord Nelson and members of the Subcommittee:

Senator Nelson:

My name is Joseph Lerner, I am a scientist (pharmacologist, biochemist) and physician who has been interested in problems of diabetes for many years, and who has been working on the mechanism of insulin action for 15 years. I was called and asked to testify before this committee, and am pleased to do so. In connection with the five points raised in your letter of June 19, 1975, I respond as follows:

1. The proper labeling of the oral hypoglycemic drugs in the light of the studies recently conducted with these drugs.

Having reviewed the literature, I have come to the following conclusion which is quoted from Chapter 71, written by myself and R.C. Haynes, Jr. of a standard textbook in Pharmacology (Goodman and Gilman's textbook, 5th edition to appear in September, 1975).

"The sulfonylureas should be used only in subjects with diabetes of the maturity-onset type who cannot be treated with diet alone or who are unwilling or unable to take insulin if weight reduction and dietary control fail. The physician must realize that he is using these agents only to control symptoms associated with hyperglycemia and that dietary control with or without insulin is more effective for this purpose."