

ion that we better do something about these drugs right now, before they proliferate on the market?

Dr. GRINSPOON. There is no question that something ought to be done about them, and there is no question that they will proliferate, not only in terms of numbers of any individual drug being available, but in terms of the actual kinds of drugs; new synthesized versions of these drugs are going to be around in the future, there is no question about it.

The problem is what to do about it, because, you see, the other thing about the simplicity of this molecule is that anybody who has taken an organic chemistry course in college can buy some very simple equipment, for about \$25 and set up what is called a garage speed laboratory, where illicit amphetamines are produced.

It is very simple to produce it that way, and one cannot talk about banning the basic ingredients that are so commonly needed and used in industry; there is no way of preventing the development of illicit amphetamine laboratories.

Let me finish the last couple of sentences of my statement.

Individual physicians—not only psychiatrists, but specialists in all areas, as well as general practitioners—who have overprescribed amphetamines in the past should be willing to recognize how they may have denied a patient help for his real problem in the very act of complying with his overt request for a pill.

The near-epidemic extent of amphetamine abuse which exists in this country today is at least in part a result of the medical community's basic unwillingness to recognize that fulfillment of its first responsibility is not always identical with the most immediate alleviation of pain and suffering.

That concludes my prepared statement.

Senator NELSON. Thank you, Dr. Grinspoon.

I have some questions which I think I will withhold for the whole panel until all of the testimony is in, so that each of you may wish to comment.

Our next witness is Dr. James J. Nora, professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric cardiology, University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, Colo.¹

You may proceed, Dr. Nora.

**STATEMENT OF JAMES J. NORA, M.D., PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS
AND DIRECTOR OF PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO MEDICAL CENTER, DENVER, COLO.**

Dr. NORA. Senator Nelson, Mr. Gordon, ladies and gentlemen, my charge, as I understand it, is to speak to the possible role that amphetamines and related drugs may play in the production of birth defects, if there is exposure at a vulnerable period of embryonic or fetal development, and if there are both a genetic predisposition to react adversely to these drugs and a genetic predisposition to some form of maldevelopment.

All of the qualifications of the previous sentence must be applied to amphetamines and to most potential teratogens.

¹ See prepared statement and attachments of Dr. Nora beginning at p. 14913.