

pounds produced amounting to 12 billion pills, was that somebody's testimony?

Dr. PROUT. The testimony this morning was 8 billion units, enough to give 35 doses to every man, woman and child in the United States.

Dr. GRINSPOON. The figure is that it was estimated that it would go to 12 billion.

Senator NELSON. Twelve billion tablets?

Dr. GRINSPOON. Yes; by units, I mean tablets, capsules, what have you.

Senator NELSON. And so you give a ballpark figure, you would be recommending a reduction from 12 billion to 1 billion?

Dr. PROUT. Yes; something in that order. The important thing is that it can be reduced within the year, or certainly by next year.

Senator NELSON. What you are saying is leave it on the market for hyperkinesis and narcolepsy indications?

Dr. PROUT. In the State of Maryland there is a third category of unusual and rare conditions, which is a legitimate use.

This includes a few patients such as those with Parkinson's disease, or other individuals with neurological problems, seen in large clinics, for individuals who have certain forms of pathological obesity, such as the Pickwickian syndrome and for which amphetamines might be used. This syndrome may include narcolepsy as a part of it. There are a number of other rare uses.

Senator NELSON. I was wondering how accurate are the figures that we have on the incidence of hyperkinesis and narcolepsy.

Dr. PROUT. I do not think we have any hard data on the figures, estimates vary from various regions of the country, but the highest I have seen is that 3 percent of schoolchildren may have a "hyperkinetic syndrome."

Dr. GRINSPOON. There was one estimate by HEW, I believe they projected there might be as many as 4 million children who suffered from hyperkinetic syndrome.

I think that is a vast overstatement, but even if one took it as an outside figure, it is very difficult to assess.

The closest we could come to for narcolepsy is a figure of something in the order of 20,000, and I think that is probably a liberal estimate.

Senator NELSON. What are the estimates of the number of patients who are receiving amphetamines for weight control purposes?

Dr. GRINSPOON. I do not know what that number is.

Senator NELSON. Go ahead.

Dr. GRINSPOON. When I said 4 million, that is the number of children who are not being treated. That is the estimate of the number who might be suffering from hyperkinetic syndrome.

Mr. GORDON. My impression is that these drugs are not indicated for hyperkinesis, but rather for minimum brain disfunction as evidenced by hyperkinesis.

There are a lot of kids that are hyperactive. Does that mean we have to give these kids drugs?

Dr. PROUT. Are you asking me?

I personally do not think so, and I think that the 400,000 estimate is probably about the same as the 3 percent. These schoolchildren are elementary schoolchildren and children in junior high school.