

were ahead of us, and had prohibited this indication for the prescription of this drug, and this class of drugs.

Senator NELSON. What year was that?

Dr. YAFFE. Year 1972, fall of 1972.

Senator NELSON. And it is in the market for what specific purpose?

Dr. YAFFE. As far as I know, Senator, it is in the market for the two reasons in which we endorsed its prescription, that is for the hyperkinetic syndrome, minimal brain disfunction, which was mentioned before, and, second, for the treatment of narcolepsy, which was also mentioned.

There is no other indication I would agree on, with the rare indications, which Dr. Prout mentioned, in adults, but for children, these two indications. I might say, narcolepsy in children is a very, very rare disease. If you can use the record of the Mayo Clinic, they saw 400 children over a 7-year period, in which they had seen many of the children throughout certainly the Midwestern portion of this country. So it is a very rare disease, and hardly enough to warrant the large-scale production of amphetamines which has already been mentioned.

Senator NELSON. Let me ask one more question.

Does Canada have the same system, the schedule II-type thing, and what is happening to the use of the drug in Canada? Do you have any statistics?

Dr. YAFFE. I am sorry, I do not know but I would think they would have some way to control production.

Senator NELSON. We will have some testimony on that, also.

Dr. YAFFE. To continue, therefore as far as the hyperkinetic syndrome is concerned, I think Mr. Gordon mentioned this, I would support what he said, that methylphenidate, although still classed as an amphetamine, is probably the drug of choice among pediatricians in this country.

That is a drug which has not been promoted as an antiobesity agent, so we then come in conclusion in this paper to a recommendation that—as others have made this morning—in 1973, amphetamines be removed as antiobesity drugs, and that the usage be limited to the two indications, one being narcolepsy, and the other being the hyperkinetic syndrome associated with minimal brain disfunction.

Senator NELSON. That would be your recommendation?

Dr. YAFFE. Yes.

Senator NELSON. Would that be the judgment of your colleagues who are knowledgeable in this field?

Dr. YAFFE. Yes, I would believe so, Senator.

May I just add one other statement about obesity itself, which has been discussed in terms of the causation of obesity. This in my opinion is in many instances a disease. The antecedent for obesity begins probably in early infancy, and it is due to excessive feeding by many parents in our society. As a consequence the number of fat cells in the body become increased. The very eloquent work of Dr. Hirsch and Dr. Knittle in New York, have clearly demonstrated that if you are overfed while an infant by your mother or father, you will have an increased number of fat cells. There is very little that can be done when you are an adult about your obesity. You have a drive to eat, and it seems to me that perhaps we should place the emphasis on