

Mr. HICKS. It was a stimulant. I do not know the chemical nature of it. There was literally thousands of them available.

Senator NELSON. Available how, where?

Mr. HICKS. That came through a contact in North Carolina.

I do not know how he secured them.

The only other pill that was available in any large quantity over any period of time is the black beauty, a biphetamine pill, I think it has always been around, as long as I was in the drug-selling business.

Personally, when I lived in New York, I had a friend in Batavia, N.Y. which is about 30 miles outside of Buffalo, who was selling me the black beauties, and on one specific instance, he told me that I could secure as much as 25,000 of them, and unfortunately, for me at the time, I did not have the money to do it.

I did purchase several thousand of them from the fellow at different times, 500 being the largest quantity at one time.

He related to me that his contact got them from the factory, but I do not know personally about that.

Mr. GORDON. That is the Pennwalt Corp.

Mr. HICKS. At the time they had RJS on it, and then later on, when I moved down to the Washington area, and began buying the black beauties, at this time I was securing them from a doctor, I noted they had a different symbol, I believe that was the Pennwalt Corp.

Mr. GORDON. They changed the name.

Senator NELSON. At what price were they?

Mr. HICKS. I cannot recall. I believe it was like 30 some cents a pill.

Senator NELSON. And what would they then sell for on the street?

Mr. HICKS. At that time, you could sell them for, depending on who you sold them to, anywhere from 75 cents to a dollar.

Now they are much higher. I do not know about them today, but in 1970, they had gone up from a dollar to \$3.

Senator NELSON. Sold on the street?

Mr. HICKS. Yes, street value.

Senator NELSON. Do you recall what the price was if you bought them in a pharmacy?

Mr. HICKS. I think when I got the script filled, it would cost me about \$6 for 30 of them.

Senator NELSON. How many a day would a drug user be likely to use?

Mr. HICKS. It would depend on how long he had been using them.

The majority of the people I knew would probably use maybe two or three of them per day.

Other people I know at times I was using them, I would be using 8 or 10 a day, because you needed more later to stay up, otherwise you would go to sleep, and one of the things you did not want to do was go to sleep.

Senator NELSON. What was the main source of these drugs that people such as yourself would use and sell them? What was the main source?

Mr. HICKS. It would depend on which drug it was.

The black beauties initially came from when I was living in Buffalo, came from an individual in Batavia, who said he secured them from a fellow at the factory.