

population but contribute some 55 percent of all prescription "pep pill" users.

Although there has been considerable discussion about the use of prescription "pep pills" among certain occupational groups such as truck drivers and students, our data suggests the highest rate of use of the prescription "pep pills" is probably among sales workers.

Senator NELSON. May I ask you a question.

You stated the persons in the age groups of 14 to 24 represent only about 26 percent of population, and some 55 percent of all prescriptions.

Why would the physicians be prescribing pep pills to all groups of 14 to 25?

Dr. CHAMBERS. I have no idea, sir.

Senator NELSON. Why did those in that age group who were interviewed say that they sought prescriptions?

Dr. CHAMBERS. Our task was not to determine "why". They were asked specifically about their use of "energizing pills", and where they got them. They did get them by prescription, and indeed, the vast majority paid for that prescription indicating the prescription was legally theirs.

Senator NELSON. Which pills?

Dr. CHAMBERS. Dexadrene and Benzedrine primarily.

Senator NELSON. That is not the indicated use for them anyway, is it?

Dr. CHAMBERS. No, sir.

Senator NELSON. So you have a situation in which in this group, 55 percent of those who got prescriptions were made—

Dr. CHAMBERS. We asked specifically, when we talked about amphetamines with the respondents, if they sought the prescription for the energizing effects, or for diet pills, and these are all people who sought the pills for their energizing effects.

Senator NELSON. And these were people who in fact did not get them off the street, but got them through a prescription by a physician?

Dr. CHAMBERS. Yes. However, in the majority of the cases they did not take the drug as it had been prescribed, but they did get it by prescription.

Senator NELSON. What was the drug prescribed for?

Dr. CHAMBERS. We have not had access to such a prescription audit.

The only thing we know is that the prescription was made out, and he received the drug.

Senator NELSON. This is 55 percent of all those who used pep pills among the 35,000 who were interviewed?

Dr. CHAMBERS. Yes, sir.

Unfortunately, neither other investigators nor I have been able to look closely at the relationship between one's work and the use of these prescription energizers.

For example, I have some information that the use of these drugs among service and protective workers, migrant workers and those in competitive sports is considerably greater than current empirical data would suggest.

The use of the amphetamines and amphetamine-containing diet pills ostensibly for their hunger suppressant effect is also significantly related to both sex and age.