

economic differences. The bulk of their use occurring in the middle range of the socioeconomic groups. With the diet pills, there is a virtual exclusion of the very low classes, but widely distributed otherwise.

Senator NELSON. Over what period of time did that survey of 35,000 occur?

Dr. CHAMBERS. I did the first one in New York State, and that occurred in 1970.

I did the last one in 1975.

Senator NELSON. Is that going to all or just several of the States?

Dr. CHAMBERS. In all, we have done 17 different States, plus the District of Columbia.

Senator NELSON. Did you extrapolate from this survey of 35,000 a figure that would indicate from that a percentage of people in the whole population who are involved in some form of drug abuse?

Dr. CHAMBERS. Well, it depends on how you define drug abuse.

What we are suggesting, if you control only for the amphetamines—

Senator NELSON. If what?

Dr. CHAMBERS. If we control only for amphetamine use, and we define abuse as that use which occurs as a result of not getting the drug by your prescription, or that involves extension of that use, or the expansion of that use, and define all of these things as abuse, roughly 65 to 70 percent of all users abuse the drug.

Senator NELSON. Sixty-five to 70 percent of all users are abusing the drug?

Dr. CHAMBERS. If you use that kind of definition, yes.

I am not sure how many of these are actually dysfunctional as a result of that use.

Senator NELSON. And that figure was 65 percent?

Dr. CHAMBERS. Sixty-five to 70 percent.

Senator NELSON. Of all users?

Dr. CHAMBERS. People do not appear to be able to use the stimulant drugs as they are prescribed.

Senator NELSON. Do not appear to what?

Dr. CHAMBERS. To be able or willing to use the stimulant drugs as they are prescribed.

The vast majority of our cases indicate they extend the time of use or increase the dose.

Senator NELSON. And that 65 percent who are abusers, represents what percent of the population?

Dr. CHAMBERS. I have no idea.

My guess is that you are talking in the neighborhood of 65 percent of roughly 4 or 5 million people.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much for your very valuable testimony.

We appreciate your taking the time to come.

Dr. CHAMBERS. Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Our next witness is Dr. Thomas M. Gellert from Huntington, N.Y.

I appreciate your taking your time to come here, Dr. Gellert.

You may present your testimony however you desire.