

to his expectations the amphetamine ban extended to all antiobesity drugs and an expected increase in the writing for nonamphetamine anorectics never materialized.

Huntington physicians had apparently decided that drugs in general had no place in the treatment of overweight patients. This philosophy of therapeutics has not changed in the past 5 years. The new physicians in town have been quick to learn of our amphetamine ban and their cooperation has been exemplary.

Senator NELSON. Is that number, 250 physicians, the total number in the Huntington township?

Dr. GELLERT. That is right.

If we have become so successful in this effort, why am I here today asking for Federal help to control the production and distribution of amphetamines and related drugs?

Despite the honest effort of 99 percent of the practicing physicians in our community, some duly licensed doctors have decided to confine their practices to the drug treatment of obesity in our community. It has been an outrageous situation.

They meticulously observe the existing laws, and they hand out a staggering amount of legal amphetamines each day.

They are not members of our medical community. They do not practice in our hospitals, nor are they members of our medical society. Thus they escape the censure of their peers and the constraints which might be placed upon them.

In the town of Huntington there are two such physicians. The youth board of Huntington township recently conducted an unofficial tally of the number of patients seen by one of these doctors in a typical week. Approximately 800 patients were seen. Over a several week period, they ranged from 800 to 1,100 patients.

Senator NELSON. Does anyone know what the standard fee for the consultation and prescription is?

Dr. GELLERT. I do not know what the fee is, but I know that figure is available.

Senator NELSON. That meant somebody could find out what is being charged?

Dr. GELLERT. I would imagine \$10 or \$15.

Senator NELSON. That is the only purpose for which these people go to these two doctors?

Dr. GELLERT. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. All right.

Dr. GELLERT. As a part of his treatment program, this particular doctor distributes amphetamines to all comers. Patients are literally lined up outside of his office. And by no means are all of those in line obese.

By a calculation, if he sees a patient, he asks the patient to come back every 2 weeks, he probably prescribes 42 tablets, amphetamine tablets, over those 14 days, that is 3 tablets a day.

When you multiply that by 42 times 800, and then multiply the number of tablets he is dispensing in a week, and then multiply that by let's say 50, this figure comes out to over 11½ million amphetamine tablets a year.