

Senator NELSON. Let me ask you a question. If they no longer had the indicated use of obesity at all, then I would assume it would not be difficult to stop the abuse.

For example with respect to the two physicians in Huntington, obviously if these drugs are indicated only for narcolepsy, or hyper-kenesis, they would not have 800 patients going through their offices. Is that correct?

Dr. GELLERT. Exactly.

Senator NELSON. Are you saying that you think there may be some occasion where it is indicated for use of obesity?

Dr. GELLERT. No; not for obesity at all.

I do not see how one could justify the use of the drugs for obesity. Several years ago the FDA investigation showed that there was short-term advantage to the use of the drug.

It may be indeed that someone some day will find that there is long-term advantage, but as yet that is not so.

Senator NELSON. You would take the position if a physician desired that it should not be used for obesity, but that if he wanted to, that physician if he had a justifiable reason, that he would get a special license?

Dr. GELLERT. Yes; and if the controls for such distribution of amphetamines is similar to the controls and of the distribution of methadone, I doubt seriously we would be seeing any of these diet clinics in operation.

This could not be justified.

I also believe there is not enough information today that would indicate that the amphetamines and amphetamine-related drugs, I feel they should be moved up, the amphetamine-related drugs, to where the amphetamines are right now, and that is a class II drug which would require special labeling, a nonrefillable prescription, and no more than 1 month prescribing at any one time.

Senator NELSON. Did the lines outside these two obesity doctors' offices get shorter or longer after the "60 Minutes" program?

Dr. GELLERT. Well, certainly the advertising was there, I would not be surprised if they got longer.

Senator NELSON. The real story in Huntington is that all except two physicians in the whole county have agreed that you should not use amphetamines for the purpose of obesity, but the abuse by the two physicians of this agreement has made it impossible for the other 250 to control it?

Dr. GELLERT. In reality we were only able to support one diet doctor before we had the ban. After the ban, the other one joined us.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much for your very valuable testimony, Dr. Gellert.

We appreciate you taking the time from your busy practice to come before the subcommittee and to present your testimony.

It is very valuable, and we appreciate it.

Dr. GELLERT. Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Our next witness is Reverend Frank Reynolds, national director of Teen Challenge Youth Centers, of Springfield, Mo.