

Mr. RODY. For the purposes of today's hearing, I will say that Ionamin is a relatively minor problem in most of the United States.

However, in Texas we find heavy trafficking and abuse of Ionamina in all areas of the State adjacent to the Mexican border.

Since July 1973 through April 1976, some 25 cases have been made involving Ionamina, with seizures and purchases totaling over 104,000 dosage units.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my formal testimony; however, I have with me Mr. Gerry Voyles, our special agent in charge, of Lubbock, Tex., who can provide an update on the status of Ionamina.

Senator NELSON. One question first.

Concerning these 25 cases between July 1973 and April 1976, involving 104,000 doses or units of Ionamina—you are saying that these drugs came illegally into the country?

Mr. RODY. That is correct, smuggled into the country.

Ionamina as opposed to Ionamin, which is domestically manufactured, that is correct.

Senator NELSON. Now, in 1972, the FDA testified before this committee that there was no difference between Ionamin and the amphetamines with respect to benefit, risks and addiction. Is that correct?

Mr. RODY. Sir, I do not have benefit of that testimony.

Mr. ROSTHAL. Yes, sir, that is correct.

Senator NELSON. All right. Go ahead.

Mr. GORDON. I want to ask one question.

Since Ionamin is now being illegally imported from Mexico, and illegally sold in the United States as in the case of the amphetamines, why not do for Ionamina what you did for the amphetamines?

Mr. RODY. Sir, we have had discussions with Pennwalt, and as recent as October 6, the president of Pennwalt communicated with DEA, and he offered full cooperation, even to the extent, if necessary of removing Ionamina from the market in Mexico, and today we would be pleased to accept that offer.

Mr. GORDON. That they will no longer ship to Mexico?

Mr. RODY. That was the offer that was made, and we would be pleased to accept it.

Senator NELSON. Do go ahead.

Do you have another witness?

Mr. RODY. Special agent Gerry Voyles. He is from Lubbock, Tex., office, and he adds significant insight due to his experience during Operation Blackjack, which I mentioned in my earlier testimony.

Senator NELSON. Could you give the reporter your full name?

Mr. VOYLES. Yes, sir.

Gerald Voyles.

Mr. Chairman, I was the field supervisor during Operation Blackjack during the years, part of the year 1971 and 1972.

During that time we were making cases, criminal cases against illicit traffickers in Bifetamina, which is a product manufactured by Pennwalt.

During that time, and during that investigation of Operation Blackjack as previous testimony has brought out, Pennwalt manufactured in the United States, and exported the bulk material to Mexico.

It was then encapsulated in Mexico City, in Strassenburg, a subsidiary of Pennwalt.