

14666 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

STATEMENT FOR SENATE SMALL BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONOPOLY

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STIMULANT AND ANORECTIC DRUGS

Introduction

In considering the anorectic drugs currently in use, it is important to distinguish between the central stimulant effects and anorectic properties. The amphetamines are perhaps the best prototype of anorectic drugs, having strong central nervous system stimulant activity as well as anorectic properties (See Table I for a listing of anorectic and stimulant drugs). Methylphenidate and phenmetrazine also have strong stimulating properties similar to the amphetamines. In considering the usefulness of these stimulant properties, there are two specific medical uses on which a consensus among physicians is held: 1) their use in hyperkinetic children; and 2) their use for narcolepsy. In both these conditions, one is faced with deficiencies in arousal and attention mechanisms. Hyperkinetic children demonstrate a remarkable inability to focus their attention on specific tasks or interests before them. They are especially distractable and susceptible to extraneous stimuli from the environment. In a school situation, they are incapable of handling the repetitious tasks requiring focused attention, such as reading and writing. Stimulants have also been generally accepted as a specific treatment for narcolepsy, an uncommon condition which is characterized by sudden attacks of sleep and weakness during normal waking hours, and unusual periodic sleep patterns at night. Stimulants, and especially amphetamine, have been found to change what is at times an incapacitating condition to an ability