

14692 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

Some pharmacies filled none over periods of several months.

Some time after our voluntary amphetamine ban, I recall speaking to a pharmaceutical house representative who observed that contrary to his expectations the amphetamine ban extended to all anti-obesity drugs and an expected increase in the writing for non-amphetamine 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 five years. The new physicians in town have been quick to learn of our amphetamine ban and their cooperation has been exemplary.

If we've 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% of the practicing physicians in our community, some duly licensed doctors have decided to confine their practices to the drug treatment of obesity. 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. 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.

Forgetting for a moment those who seek out this man to obtain a supply of "uppers" to get through the day, such doctors have a readymade parade of victims in any community. They are the tired, overweight housewives; the self-conscious overweight teenagers; or, for that matter, any obese citizens.