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benzphetamine and its salts; methamphetamine and its salts; phenmetrazine and its salts; and phendimetrazine and its salts would be made "designated drugs" under the Canadian Food and Drugs Act, and be subjected to strict controls in terms of valid diagnoses for prescribing them.

I well remember the stunned reaction within the medical community of Canada over this unprecedented degree of control, and the distress felt by many physicians that the two stated conditions narcolepsy and hyperkinetic disorders of children, which our Minister had described as the only two valid indications for the use of these drugs, was not in accordance with actual medical needs.

By a process which is operative and functional within the Canadian Department of National Health and Welfare, a Canadian Medical Association delegation was invited to discuss the proposed regulation which would be delayed for a period of six months so that full consultation with all interested parties could take place. During this process I was asked to chair a study committee of approximately 12 physicians from both inside and outside of our Federal Department of Health and Welfare.

In a series of discussions this committee was found to be divided in its opinion regarding the usefulness of amphetamines or amphetamines plus barbiturates in providing a "short-cut" method of diagnosis of psychiatric illness (especially depression), although a minority felt strongly that these drugs as used by psychiatrists often increase the degree of communication which is essential to successful psychotherapy.

There was unanimous agreement that amphetamines have little or no place in the treatment of depression and that there is little or no evidence that the fast action of amphetamines is actually useful in determining prognosis regarding a response to tricyclic antidepressants. Whereas it was formerly believed that amphetamines beneficially increased the activity of depressed persons, more recent opinion seems to suggest that an increase of activity in acutely depressed individuals may lead to an even higher incidence of suicidal attempts.