

- 11 -

"goodness" or 0 to minus 10 of "badness", one can contrive a series of curves such as I have outlined as an example for the drug methylphenidate. Unfortunately I have not yet tried to construct similar types of curves nor an analysis for the specific amphetamine derivatives presently used for the treatment of obesity.

Finally, you may from my original table see that our imports of amphetamines into Canada are now very very low. Indeed we have wondered whether or not our stringent regulations have resulted in an overkill and that some patients who might benefit from amphetamines are not being prescribed them because of the concerns about long-term effects which we have engendered in our physician population. The phendimetrazine being manufactured is not marketed in our country, and is available only for export purposes. The manufacturers of Benzphetamine have not imported any into Canada since 1967 and have now decided to abandon the entire market.

Questions that still remain include the fundamental one which concerns the correctness of designating certain illness, as valid for the long-term prescribing of amphetamines while leaving the door open for physicians who need to use the drugs for extraordinary cases. In Canada since the beginning of our regulations has amounted to about 240 per year. The number is quite stable. I may say in passing that no reasonable request has ever been refused by our Department of National Health and Welfare.

Some increase in congener sales when one part of the amphetamine spectrum is squeezed is only to be expected, and it is a question of judgement whether or not the increase is acceptable. I shall present some group figures for certain congeners during my statement. In Canada however, there is quite recent evidence of illicit manufacturer of diethylpropion - and this would not be taking place if there was not a street market for it. It is thus a potential threat and cannot be ignored. There is no reason for me to believe that the same phenomenon could not occur with some of the others too.