

14750 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

TESTIMONY BEFORE U. S. SENATE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

November 10, 1976

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Donald R. Jasinski. I am a physician who is a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service. I hold the position of Chief, Clinical Pharmacology Section, of the National Institute on Drug Abuse Addiction Research Center, Lexington, Kentucky.

For over forty years, the Addiction Research Center has conducted studies in volunteer prisoner addicts to assess the abuse potential of psychoactive drugs proposed for introduction into therapeutics. Such studies with narcotic analgesics have proven to be a valid means of protecting the public health. In the last six years, the comparative pharmacology of stimulant drugs has been studied in order to assess the abuse potential of these drugs relative to dextroamphetamine and to provide a basis for scheduling decisions under the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970.

The principal underlying assessment for abuse potential is the identification of a prototypic drug which has been abused and is judged to be a danger to the public health. All drugs having a similar mode of action and sharing the same profile of pharmacologic effects are viewed as having a potential for abuse.

Amphetamine, the prototypic drug for anti-obesity agents, produces characteristic and reproducible alterations in mood, feeling states and perception in our addict population. Volunteers can distinguish these