

14884 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

ON FEBRUARY 2ND OF THIS YEAR, WE REFERRED HER TO A LOCAL DETOX UNIT, AND THEY REFERRED HER TO A LOCAL RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM. SHE WITHDREW AFTER TWO DAYS, BUT OUR FOLLOW-UP DETERMINED THAT SHE REMAINED DETOXIFIED FOR TWO MONTHS BEFORE SHE RETURNED TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE FOR MORE PILLS WHICH SHE RECEIVED.

ON MAY 4TH, IN THE PRESENCE OF ONE OF OUR WORKERS, SHE WROTE A LETTER TO THE DOCTOR, AND TOLD HIM OF HER ADDICTIVE HISTORY WITH THE PILLS HE HAD BEEN GIVING HER, AND PLEADED WITH HIM TO NEVER GIVE HER PILLS AGAIN, EVEN IF SHE BEGGED HIM.

I WISH THAT I COULD SAY THAT THIS IS AN ATYPICAL AND OVERLY DRAMATIC CASE, MR. CHAIRMAN, BUT THIS SAD STORY IS UNUSUAL ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT THIS YOUNG WOMAN CAME FOR HELP. WHEN AMPHETAMINES ARE INVOLVED IN AN ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF DRUG ABUSE, DEEP DEPRESSIONS, AGGRESSIVE ACTING OUT, PARANOIA, SUICIDAL TENDENCIES AND RESISTIVENESS TO CHANGE ARE THE COMMON TRAITS.

JUST AS THESE HEARINGS ON ANTI-OBESITY DRUGS ARE PART OF A LARGER STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN GENERAL, THE ABUSE OF AMPHETAMINES IS USUALLY COMBINED WITH THE ABUSE OF TRANQUILIZERS, SEDATIVES, AND BARBITUATES OBTAINED, FAR TOO OFTEN, FROM OTHER DOCTORS.

MANY ADULTS IN TOWN, AS WELL AS YOUNG PEOPLE, FIND THEMSELVES ON A CHEMICAL ROLLER-COASTER OF "UPS" AND "DOWNS." THE SUBURBAN HOUSEWIFE SEEMS TO BE A PARTICULARLY HIGH-RISK POPULATION FOR THIS KIND OF DRUG ABUSE. SOME START WITH DEPRESSANT DRUGS, DEVELOP TOLERANCES, AND THEN GO TO A "WEIGHT DOCTOR" FOR AMPHETAMINES TO HELP THEM GET UP IN THE MORNING. OTHERS GET "STRUNG OUT" ON THEIR