

14896 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

"Fatness has become a stigma--we associate it with poverty, ignorance, bad smell, sour lives. To a large extent this is correct--and the fat person knows it."

In discussing the proper role of anorectics in the treatment of obesity, we are confident that while this Committee will consider the testimony of the experts, the layman, and others who have their respective and differing views, the Committee will continue to be most interested in that which can be established factually.

We are equally confident this Committee will examine the question of antiobesity medication in the context in which it arises--a population containing 30 to 40 million obese citizens who are entitled to medical and other therapeutic assistance in obtaining relief from their physical and emotional disabilities.

These disabilities cannot be dismissed with the notion that "will-power" or "self-discipline" or "counseling" are all that are needed. We can tell the sinners, the alcoholics, the chain-smokers or the obese how to behave and turn our backs on them if they do not. But quite clearly preachment is not the cure for any serious disability.

We think it noteworthy that despite great medical progress in this country, the treatment of obesity is one of the few areas of preventive medicine being practiced today. Most other medical practice today remains remedial or post-traumatic. Medical attention is available to help the obese patient in his efforts to attain a more satisfactory level of physical condition by supervised weight loss.