

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I have been asked to come before you today to discuss the use of amphetamines and related compounds in the treatment of obesity. I have had the privilege of appearing before this Committee on previous occasions and realize only too well the seriousness of this Committee's work.

In my remarks today, I would like to discuss first the trivial effect of these drugs on the lifetime condition of obesity and to draw conclusions based on the present knowledge of the use of these agents and the attitude of the pharmaceutical companies in their promotion.

You will recall that as chairman of a board of evaluation of prescription drugs proposed for the purpose of weight reduction, the following conclusions and recommendations were sent to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration after careful study of available information:

CONCLUSIONS

1. Adult obese subjects instructed in dietary management and treated with "anorectic" drugs on the average tend to lose more weight than those treated with placebo and diet in relatively short-term trials.

2. The amount of weight loss associated with the use of an "anorectic" drug varies from trial to trial. The possible origins of the increased weight loss due to the various drug effects are not established. The increased weight loss appears to be related to variables other than the drug prescribed, such