COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 14927

pharmaceutical companies continue to produce amounts of these chemicals that appear to be far in excess of any potential medical need. If this be the case, it clearly demonstrates the wisdom of the prior recommendation, it exceeds the tolerance of society to allow them to continue, it certainly belies the statement made in an open meeting of the then Medical Director of the Pharmaceutical Division of Pennwalt Company who said, "I assure you that the drug manufacturer wants his drug to be used as well and as accurately as it can possibly be", and it begs for curtailment of the rapacious attitude of some pharmaceutical companies toward society.

In 1972 the Canadian government, led by the medical profession of Canada, withdrew the acceptance of amphetamine and related compounds for the treatment of obesity. I know of no information which suggests that this has caused any hardship or that Canadians today are fatter than they were four years ago. A similar move in the country would save our citizens something over \$85 million per year in prescription sales alone for these agents.

Experience in Sweden and Japan, to cite two of the countries on which we have some information as well as in the United States, suggests that the use of amphetamines in the street represents on the one hand the interface between legitimate and illegitimate drug usage and, on the other hand, the start of the trail that leads deeper and deeper into the wilderness of the drug cult. For these reasons we must recognize that production of these agents which is clearly in excess of present