Methamphetamine Saccharate and Hydrochloride with Amphetamine Sulfate and Dextroamphetamine Sulfate.

Phenmetrazine Hydrochloride with Vitamins and Minerals.

Phentermine as the sulfonated polystyrene complex (prolonged release).

2. All of the preparations were evaluated by the Panel on Psychiatric drugs. Other panels also participated in the evaluations. The Academy's evaluations for the anorectic claims for these drugs ranged from "effective, but" through ineffective. We conclude that although some of the anorectic agents are effective in other products, the highest classification for these particular products should be possibly effective. The enclosed evaluation sheets set forth the indications for which the reviewed drugs are regarded as possibly effective and ineffective by the FDA and explanations of differences in the FDA evaluations from those of the Academy.

3. A majority of the members of the Panel on Psychiatric Drugs concluded that sympathomimetic stimulants as a class have been shown to have a generally short-term anorectic action. They are not a treatment of obesity in themselves and should be used as an adjunct to a total program of weight reduction. Further, the anorectic effect often plateaus or diminishes after a few weeks. Clinical opinion as to the contribution of the sympathomimetic stimulants in a weight-reduction program varies widely. Most studies of these preparations are for short periods. The panel suggested that controlled studies of the long-term effects of sympathomimetic stimulants in a weight-reduction program be conducted.

4. The Panels' reasoning for their possibly effective classifications for the anorectic indications of these drugs falls into four broad categories:

a. Sustained- or prolonged-release preparations. Documentation stated to be available to the Panel regarding blood levels of these drugs following the use of the sustained-release form was inadequate to show any superiority of such form. (Acc. Nos. 1290, 1295, 1296, 1302, 1303, 1306, 1308, 1318, 1321)

b. Combinations containing reserpine. The Panel questioned the effect of reserpine in the combination and the amount of reserpine in a usual dose. (Acc. Nos. 1291, 1311)

c. Methamphetamine as an ingredient. On the basis of a presumed pharmacologic similarity to amphetamine, methamphetamine may have a similar anorectic effect. However, supporting evidence is inadequate. (Acc. Nos. 1292, 1298, 1299, 1309, 1310, 1312, 1313, 1318, 1321, 1324, 1325)

d. Combination preparations. The utility of the combination in the treatment of the conditions claimed for each ingredient has not been determined; there is a total absence of positive controlled studies. (Acc. No. 1291, 1295, 1300, 1303, 1304, 1306, 1308, 1311, 1321)

5. The proposed announcement provides for deletion of ineffective indications within 60 days and 6 months to submit effective data, and for sustained-release forms, data showing that the drug is available at a safe and effective rate.

6. Other phenmetrazine products (Geigy's Preludin Tablets and Preludin Endurets) are being covered in another announcement (DESI 11752).

7. Other diethylpropion products (Merrell's Tenuate Tablets and National Drug's Tepanil Tablets) and another phentermine product (Dorsey's Wilpo Tablets) are being covered in DESI 11673, as are other effective anorectics, benzphetamine and phendimetrazine.

8. Parenteral methamphetamine reports will be announced later.

9. Numerous other anorectic preparations, not subjects of NDA's, are on the market.

10. Marketing of two of the products listed in the announcement (NDA 6390 Amphedroxyn Hydrochloride Tablets, Lilly, and NDA 12-371 Prelu-Vite Capsules, Geigy) has been discontinued.

11. The holders of NDA's for products reviewed by NAS will be sent a copy of the NAS-NRC report prior to publication of this announcement. Subsequent to publication the holders of NDA's for similar drugs not reviewed by NAS (see enclosed list) will be advised that their products will also be affected.

HENRY E. SIMMONS, M.D.,
Director, Bureau of Drugs.

TAB J—SPECIAL LABELING FOR FENFLURAMINE

Under ACTIONS:

Most of the statements from the class ACTIONS section for anorectics (Tab D) are applicable. In addition, a statement along the following lines should be included.