

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21,
6:00 P.M.

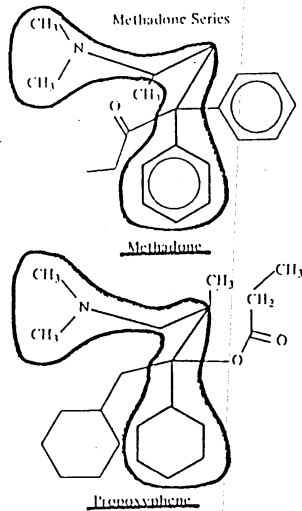
**Public
Citizen**

November 21, 1978

Joseph Califano
Secretary
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Humphrey Building, Room 615-F
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Califano:

According to recent information we have obtained from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Department of Justice, the narcotic propoxyphene (as in Darvon)--closely related to methadone¹--leads all other prescription drugs in the United States in drug-related deaths. In 14 U.S. cities (see page 3) there were more propoxyphene (DPX)-related deaths than morphine and heroin-related deaths in 1977.



SIMILARITY BETWEEN
PROPOXYPHENE (DPX)
AND
METHADONE

¹The above figure is from the Second Edition (1978) of Clinical Pharmacology by Melmon and Morrelli, MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York.