

16708 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

of the Public Health Service Addiction Research Center that, "... (propoxyphene's) overall addiction liability is estimated to be no greater, and is probably less, than that of codeine" were repeatedly confirmed.

In 1973, DEA first proposed to HEW that propoxyphene be placed under control. HEW did not feel control was warranted at that time, but that we should continue to monitor the drug. In March 1976, DEA submitted updated information to HEW regarding the abuse of propoxyphene. The ensuing deliberations resulted in HEW's recommendation to control propoxyphene in Schedule IV, and DEA controlled the drug effective March 14, 1977. Thus, unauthorized manufacture, distribution and possession of propoxyphene became a criminal offense. Labeling carries a CIV symbol, annual inventories by manufacturers and distributors are required and prescriptions may be refilled no more than five times and are valid from date of issuance for only six months.

The scheduling of propoxyphene is once again controversial. There are proponents who now maintain that propoxyphene more correctly belongs in Schedule II. The Public Citizens Health Research Group and the Oregon Department of Human Resources have petitioned to place propoxyphene in Schedule II. In response to these petitions, DEA has undertaken a survey to update information on the abuse of propoxyphene. Data regarding the nature and extent of propoxyphene-related unlawful or unprofessional activities has been solicited from each State government. Data is being assembled from several other sources: DAWN, DEA lab analysis of