

We understand that today's agenda involves a preliminary discussion of the proposal to place propoxyphene in Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Committee today and will cooperate with and assist the Committee in its future deliberations.

In my comments, I will not attempt to cover all the material in Lilly's Blue Book. However, I would like to review a few items briefly before addressing the issues raised by the petition submitted by the Health Research Group to the Attorney General.

#### Background

The discovery and development of propoxyphene by Lilly resulted from a national effort following World War II to develop analgesic agents with a lower potential for dependence than the opium derivatives and synthetic narcotics available at that time. As part of this national effort, Lilly synthesized propoxyphene in the early 1950s. Although there are four stereoisomers of this compound, only one, the alpha-dextro isomer, has significant analgesic activity.