

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1969

U.S. SENATE,
MONOPOLY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10:40 a.m., in room 318, Old Senate Office Building, Senator Gaylord Nelson (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Nelson and Dole.

Also present: Benjamin Gordon, staff economist; Elaine C. Dye, clerical assistant; and James P. Duffy III, minority counsel.

Senator NELSON. The Small Business Committee will resume its hearings now. We have three witnesses this morning, Dr. Stanley Yolles, Director, National Institute of Mental Health, of HEW; Dr. Jerome Levine, Chief of Psychopharmacology Research Branch of HEW; and Prof. Bernard Barber, chairman of the Department of Sociology, Barnard College.

I had an opening statement but, in order to move along here, I will just place it in the record.

(Senator Nelson's statement follows:)

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

When Aldous Huxley wrote his fantasy concept of the world of the future in the now classic "Brave New World", he created an uncomfortably, emotionless culture of escapism dependent upon tiny tablets of tranquillity called soma.

It was chillingly disconcerting to read Huxley's book as it described an emotionless society populated by robot-like figures frantically hiding from reality. It was comforting, however, that the book was after all only science fiction. But in the nearly 40 years since Huxley created his classic the fiction began to read like reality. It became a prophetic insight into the kind of society we seem to be moving toward today.

In our complex society we have our soma to escape the frustrations. We find our psychotropic drugs of escape in barbiturates and tranquilizers. Over the past few years, if we can believe only a small part of what has been written, Americans have been insulating themselves from the pressures of modern life by using tranquilizing drugs in rapidly increasing numbers.

Our problem is that we don't really know very much about the tranquilizing drugs or what they are doing to us as individuals and to our society as a whole. These hearings will be seeking answers to what many thoughtful people believe to be vitally important questions. To my knowledge, no one has gathered the best information available in one place on psychotropic drugs. We hope to begin that compilation today.

The witnesses today are Dr. Stanley Yolles, Director, and Dr. Jerome Levine, Chief of the Psychopharmacology Research Branch, both of the National Institute of Mental Health, and Professor Bernard Barber, of the Barnard College, Columbia University Sociology Department.