

Dr. Yolles and Dr. Levine will discuss the nature and extent of psychotropic drug usage in the United States, and Professor Barber will discuss the sociological problems that are caused by the use of the drugs.

Senator NELSON. Tomorrow's witness, Dr. Edward Pinckney, former associate editor of JAMA, Journal of the American Medical Association, will not be able to testify because of illness. His prepared statement will be submitted for the record and questions I had planned to ask will be sent to him. His answers will also be printed in the record and any questions by any other committee members will also be sent to Dr. Pinckney for his response and printed in the record.¹

Our first witness this morning will be Dr. Stanley Yolles. Dr. Yolles, we are very pleased to have you here this morning. You may present your statement in any fashion you desire.

STATEMENT OF DR. STANLEY F. YOLLES, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. JEROME LEVINE, CHIEF, PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY RESEARCH BRANCH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH; AND DR. MITCHELL BALTER, CHIEF, SPECIAL STUDIES SECTION, PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY RESEARCH BRANCH

Dr. YOLLES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to appear today to introduce and generally discuss psychotropic drug usage in the United States. I am accompanied today by Dr. Jerome Levine, Chief of the Psychopharmacology Research Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health and Dr. Mitchell Balter, Chief of the Special Studies Section of that Branch. Dr. Levine has a statement which he will give a little later.

In 1969, we are rapidly moving into an area of understanding of brain function. The synthesis of protein, the breaking of the genetic code, increased experiments in RNA and memory functions, increased understanding of chemical functions within the brain, and the effects of drugs on brain and body functions, the understanding of learning behavior which has progressed in animal studies to the point where animals can be conditioned to control bodily functions—all of these lead toward the artificial alteration of human behavior.

We have arrived at the point where the uncontrollable is becoming subject to control. The mission of the National Institute of Mental Health is the improvement of the mental health of the people of the United States. From its inception the mental health program has supported the development of research, the training and production of manpower in the mental health field, and the initiation and expansion of community-based treatment services. One of the primary purposes of the NIMH, therefore, is to support the search for new knowledge in the field of drugs as in many others.

In the 20 years of its existence, the NIMH has strongly stimulated research in psychopharmacology and the utilization of drugs in treatment. This year, the Institute is supporting more than 300 projects

¹ The statement of Dr. Edward R. Pinckney, former associate editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, appears in pt. 14.