

Senator DOLE. If taken by prescription for weight reduction and properly prescribed—there are really no harmful effects; is that correct?

Dr. LEVINE. There are not major harmful effects. It certainly should be given with the supervision of a physician and for specific purposes and not for an unlimited amount of time.

Senator DOLE. I think probably one problem is that, though they do reduce your appetite, you stay awake longer. You could take in four meals instead of three, you know, if you take enough of those dexadrines.

Dr. LEVINE. Especially on the campaign circuit.

Senator DOLE. I think he stopped taking them. I will report to him he can probably start again.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, may I just ask a question? Doctor, I note at the bottom of page 21 of your statement that you say occasional use of psychotropic drugs to improve adequate social functioning—I am dropping out a few words here—may be on the rise. I would assume you would include within this kind of taking of this drug the tired business executive so he can enjoy his theater more, as Dr. Yolles suggested.

Dr. LEVINE. Precisely.

Mr. DUFFY. And I think, if I understood your response to Mr. Gordon a moment ago, that you feel there is nothing necessarily objectionable about the use of these drugs to improve personal performance. Am I interpreting you correctly?

Dr. LEVINE. I would say that this is a decision that society is going to have to make and these are the other frames of reference to which Dr. Yolles referred which must be taken into account.

This is, in a sense, beyond the medical opinion. Medical opinion is treating illness, but if society—and physicians are a part of society and only a part of society—decide that this is a legitimate use of drugs, that the enhancement of normal performance is a legitimate use of drugs, yes, this would be considered legitimate.

Society may decide that it is not. For example, the use of amphetamines and other drugs to help athletes perform better on the track or to give drugs to horses in horseraces, society does not condone these actions as being beneficial to society.

So that I think society will have to aid in saying what is legitimate use of drugs. It is not solely a medical decision.

Mr. DUFFY. Just one other question. This is prompted by nothing other than curiosity, but if I discovered alcohol today, would that be a psychotropic drug?

Dr. LEVINE. Yes, indeed it would, and it would probably fall in the minor tranquilizer class. It probably would not be put on the market because it leads to damaging liver effects when taken in large doses over prolonged periods of time.

Mr. DUFFY. It is a good thing it was discovered a long time ago.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Doctor. We appreciate your taking time to come here this morning.