



OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER OF NARCOTICS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF NARCOTICS

WASHINGTON 25

February 8, 1957.

Mr. T. P. Carney
Vice President
Eli Lilly & Company
Indianapolis 6, Indiana

Dear Mr. Carney:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of June 14, 1956, relating to the status of the drug Propoxyphene.

At its meeting on January 22 and 23, 1957, the Committee on Drug Addiction and Narcotics of the National Research Council reviewed the results of studies on Propoxyphene, including the study of the dextro-isomer, conducted by the Addiction Research Center of the U. S. Public Health Service. The Committee's findings with respect to the addiction liability of this drug, and its views concerning appropriate control measures, are incorporated in the following statements:

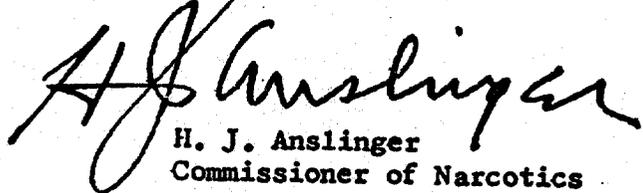
"Having considered the report on clinical experience with 1,2-diphenyl-4-dimethylamino-3-methyl-2-propionoxybutane (propoxyphene, both the racemate and the dextro-isomer), having reviewed the results of the earlier tests to determine the existence of morphine-like properties and addiction sustaining potency in this drug, and having considered the results of substitution studies with d-propoxyphene in morphine addiction, the Committee concluded that propoxyphene and its dextro-isomer have addiction liability substantially less than that of codeine. Therefore, the Committee is of the opinion that data at present available does not warrant a finding that 1,2-diphenyl-4-dimethylamino-3-methyl-2-propionoxybutane has addiction producing or addiction sustaining properties similar to morphine.

"The Committee believes, however, that with respect to substances having some addiction liability, but substantially less than that of codeine, it would be in the public interest to apply to such substances some modified form of control, less than that prescribed by the Opiate Act. The Committee suggests that consideration be given to means whereby such modified control may be provided."

The Bureau therefore proposes to present, through channels, a request to the World Health Organization under Article 3 of the 1948 Protocol for reconsideration of its previous decision concerning the status of Propoxyphene under the 1931 Convention. There will be transmitted, in support of the request for reconsideration, copies of the minutes of the hearing held at this Bureau on May 3, 1956; copies of a report of the Addiction Research Center on racemate and dextro Propoxyphene (see attached Exhibit A), and a further study by the Addiction Research Center on dextro Propoxyphene (see attached Exhibit B). In addition, there would be submitted any written comments, criticisms, or other data that you may wish to have brought to the attention of the World Health Organization in connection with this request.

If you desire to forward to this Bureau any additional written comments, criticisms, or other data concerning this matter, it would be appreciated if the same could be furnished in quadruplicate, as normally three copies are required to be forwarded, through channels, to the World Health Organization. It would also be appreciated if you would return the enclosed Exhibits A and B, when they have served your purpose.

Yours very truly,


H. J. Anslinger
Commissioner of Narcotics

Enclosures

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2-18-57