

LOUISIANA STATE  
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

\* \* \* \* \*  
In The Matter of  
WILLIAM C. SCHEPPEGRELL, JR., M.D.  
\* \* \* \* \*

FINAL  
DECISION

A formal hearing was convened before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) on December 9, 1977 to adjudicate alleged, specified violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act by William C. Scheppegrell, Jr., M.D., to-wit: "entry of a plea of guilty . . . to a criminal charge," LSA-R.S. 37:1285(1); "[p]rescribing, dispensing or administering habit-forming or other legally controlled substances in other than a legal or legitimate manner," LSA-R.S. 37:1285(6); "[u]nprofessional conduct," LSA-R.S. 37:1285(13); and "[i]mmoral conduct in exercising the privileges provided for by license . . . ," LSA-R.S. 37:1285(15).

A quorum of the Board was present. Dr. Scheppegrell was present and was represented by Robert J. Zibilich, Esq.,

a member of the Bar of the State of Louisiana.

After receiving and considering the evidence and the statement of Dr. Schepppegrell's counsel, pursuant to LSA-R.S. 49:958, the Board renders the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision.

Findings of Fact

1

On or about October 13, 1977, a federal grand jury indictment was returned against William C. Schepppegrell, Jr., M.D., charging him with fifty-nine counts of violating section 841(a)(1) of Title 21 of the United States Code, each count charging the commission of a felony.

2

Said indictment more particularly alleged that between January 13, 1976 and August 15, 1977, inclusive, Dr. Schepppegrell, being a registrant authorized to dispense controlled substances, knowingly and intentionally issued prescriptions for or dispensed Preludin (phenmetrazine hydrochloride) or Tuinal (amobarbital secobarbital)

on 59 occasions, each and all of which were not in the course and scope of his professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose.

3

On November 2, 1977, Dr. Scheppegrell appeared before the Hon. Charles Schwartz, Jr., District Judge, and entered under oath a plea of guilty to Counts 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 30, 34, 35, 41 and 56 of said indictment.

4

On November 25, 1977, pursuant to his plea of guilty, William C. Scheppegrell, Jr., M.D. was sentenced to serve a five year term of imprisonment, with a special parole of two years, on each of five counts to which he had pleaded guilty, such terms to run concurrently. An additional, consecutive sentence of five years' imprisonment on each of the five remaining counts, to run concurrently, was suspended, the physician to remain on active probation for an equal period.

5

The criminal offenses acknowledged by Dr. Scheppegrell

and for which he now stands convicted and sentenced arose out of and from his practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana and his exercise of the privileges of medical licensure and, because of the nature thereof, has a direct and proximate relationship to his qualification and fitness for continued practice.

Conclusions of Law

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes, as a matter of law, that:

1

William C. Scheppegrell, Jr., M.D. entered a plea of guilty to and has been convicted of a crime, and, therefore, just cause exists for action against his license as provided for by LSA-R.S. 37:1285(1).

2

William C. Scheppegrell, Jr., M.D. has prescribed, dispensed or administered habit-forming or other legally controlled substances in other than a legal or legitimate manner, and, therefore, just cause exists for action

against his license as provided for by LSA-R.S. 37:1285(6).

Decision

Considering the foregoing,

IT IS ORDERED that the license of William C. Scheppegrell, Jr., M.D. to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. 6526 be and the same is hereby REVOKED.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1977.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY:

Charles B. Odom, M.D.

President