

not lessen our concern and determination to continue to search for the safest and most effective methods of birth control.

Last year the President sent a special message to the Congress describing the growing threat that the population explosion poses to the United States and to the entire world, and proposing that steps be taken here in this country to provide information and services on a countrywide basis so that all Americans who wished to do so could space or limit the number of their children. He also stressed the need for increased scientific research to provide improved contraceptives for this purpose.

The challenge which faces medical science in meeting this issue in a responsible and humane manner is surely one of the greatest challenges facing our society today. I hope that these hearings will be regarded as a major incentive to the researchers, physicians, biologists, chemists, drug companies, and government agencies to find answers to the many questions which have been and are being raised by oral and other contraceptives. It is urgently necessary that solutions be found as quickly as possible which are compatible with the health, welfare, and the dignity of human beings here and throughout the world.

The aims of these hearings, as I have previously stated, are to present for the general public's benefit the best and most objective information available about these drugs. First, whether they are dangerous for the human body and, second, whether patients taking them have sufficient information about possible dangers in order to make an intelligent judgment whether they wish to assume the risks.

Our sessions are not designed as a general debate. Whether for every pro-pill statement we have an antipill statement I cannot say because we are not going to judge this matter by the amount of verbiage. We have invited witnesses to discuss actual or possible effects of the oral contraceptive drugs on genetic damage, sterility, cancer, arthritis, strokes, blood clotting, high blood pressure, diabetes, liver damage, fatty substances in the blood and other metabolic changes. If there are scientific studies that support the point that the pill has no relationship with these diseases we shall certainly welcome that testimony. We invite the appearance of any drug manufacturing firm or representative thereof. I have stated on many occasions in the past 3 years of our drug hearings that every viewpoint on all subjects before this committee is sought. These hearings are no exception to that rule.

These hearings were started during the recess because, as chairman of this subcommittee and the Poverty Subcommittee, it is necessary for me to conduct a substantial number of hearings which I decided could not be concluded in the next 3 months unless I started during the recess period. Therefore, unfortunately, some of the other members of the committee who had other commitments could not be in attendance today.

Senator Dole had asked if I could delay these hearings for these 2 days because he wanted to be here, and had previous commitments in Kansas, but I was unable to do so and still fulfill the commitments that I have to complete the hearings of both the Poverty and Manpower Subcommittee of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee and this committee.

Senator Dole sent a statement which he wishes to have read into the record by the minority counsel.