

adverse effects that might occur: edema, menstrual irregularity, nausea, constipation, changes in electrocardiogram, blood dyscrasia, agranulocytosis, hepatitis, et cetera?

Senator McINTYRE. This, of course, is a drug that is normally prescribed for an illness, is it not?

Dr. KISTNER. Not necessarily.

Senator McINTYRE. Not necessarily.

Dr. KISTNER. Do you think tranquilizers are always prescribed for an illness? [Laughter.]

You are getting into a field now—do you think the majority—

Senator McINTYRE. I am not going to answer your question today. I am not an expert.

Dr. KISTNER. I can tell you that I don't think that they are.

Senator McINTYRE. There are some people I know that take tranquilizers, I am sure, have illness but I think the distinction we are trying to make is that this pill that is being prescribed largely for perfectly healthy human beings and that some of these medications you are talking about are normally and usually prescribed for illness.

Doctor, I agree to a certain extent with your observation that the medical profession seems to be undergoing a schism into those for and those against the pill although none of those who have thus far testified about the danger of the pill have advocated that it be completely removed from the market. However, I am afraid that I cannot agree at all with your identification of the proponents as clinicians, who have used the pill daily, and the opponents as physicians or investigators who have not been in contact with patients or have chosen not to prescribe the pill.

Each of the four witnesses we had yesterday might be considered opponents of the pill to some extent. However, three of the four do have regular contact with patients and have prescribed the pill.

A more accurate description, I think, would be that the proponents are largely those who were involved in the development of the pill or in the promotion of its use or who have never observed a serious adverse reaction in their patients.

The opponents appear to be largely those who have observed potentially serious side effects either through research or medical practice. Do you agree?

Dr. KISTNER. I will accept that.

Senator McINTYRE. Pardon.

Dr. KISTNER. I will accept that, yes.

Senator McINTYRE. You would accept that the opponents seem to be those who through their research and through their practice are beginning to observe these side effects of a potentially very dangerous characteristic?

Dr. KISTNER. Yes.

I would think if the man had the misfortune of having prescribed the pill to an individual and that she might then have had a spontaneous accident which was attributed to the pill, that this would affect him seriously in his judgments of the pill, and he therefore might become opposed to it; yes, sir.

Senator McINTYRE. Doctor, you make the statement that the pill is safer than pregnancy but not as safe as continence. Although this