

Senator NELSON. Stopped using the pill within a very short period of time.

Dr. KISTNER. Yes.

Senator NELSON. I believe he considered that a factor that ought to be considered. But I guess the point being if you used the pill and you didn't skip a day, or miss a day, or forget a day and then if you used a diaphragm or IUD, used them both properly that there was a very high rate of protection out of all three of them.

Dr. KISTNER. All right.

Senator McINTYRE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, on that.

Dr. Kistner, you say that apprehension that the pill may cause cancer is not shared by the majority of physicians, and you base this statement on a survey which showed that 99 percent of the specialists surveyed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology stated they did not correlate cancer with use of the pill. Since even the busiest physician is likely to have only a few hundred patients, not all of whom will be taking the pill, do you think that they would be likely to detect pill-induced cancer if it occurred only once in several thousand patients?

Dr. KISTNER. Obviously the answer to the question the way you have phrased it is no. But I think that the physicians of America have become knowledgeable in regard to the relationship of hormones to cancer, and that the estrogen myth of the 1920's and 1930's is no longer accepted by the majority of specialists who were polled in this study.

Senator McINTYRE. But the basic answer to my question is no, they probably wouldn't be in a good position to actually observe?

Dr. KISTNER. That is right. That is correct.

Senator McINTYRE. Now, doctor, do you not think that epidemiological or other carefully controlled studies constitute a preferable method for determining whether the pill may cause cancer or any other adverse effect.

Dr. KISTNER. There is no doubt about it, absolutely.

Senator McINTYRE. Doctor, you had quite a bit to say about deaths from cancer which were caused by cigarette smoking. In your own practice have you ever observed a case of lung cancer which, in the absence of the epidemiological studies you have quoted at some length, you would have known to be caused by cigarette smoking?

Dr. KISTNER. I deal only with females and the incidence of lung cancer is extremely small in the female and I haven't even seen a patient with lung cancer, to be very honest with you. That doesn't decry the statistics that I quoted.

Senator McINTYRE. You yourself have no personal observation?

Dr. KISTNER. I don't see patients with lung cancer. I would have no observation.

Senator McINTYRE. Doctor, on page 2 of your statement you state there is no statistically valid basis for linking the pill to the various forms of cancer that occur in the female. In view of the fact estrogen has been shown to cause cancer in animals, is there any statistically valid basis for excluding such a relationship in humans?

Dr. KISTNER. No; I don't say we should exclude it but what I have said is there is no valid evidence for believing that it does exist and I