

Senator McINTYRE. Doctor, just finally to wind this up, since it is my understanding that use of this pill is prescribed for a normally healthy woman, do you not think it is ethically important or ethically correct for the physician to describe and explain to the lady not only the possible side effects but the possibility of some complications?

Dr. KISTNER. Yes; and I did that, I wrote a book about it and I went into all of these details.

Senator McINTYRE. But have you been doing this since you testified in this case?

Dr. KISTNER. Doing what?

Senator McINTYRE. As I understand it your answer was you have written a book.

Dr. KISTNER. I wrote a book listing all the things you have just said.

Senator McINTYRE. And you think that is the proper way to advise your patient?

Dr. KISTNER. It is impossible to go into the details of the medical aspects of the complications and the side effects in the short time that one is allowed with an individual patient, and I thought it would be better if the women of America could be appraised of the various effects by reading about it.

Senator McINTYRE. My point is that it does seem ethically important and ethically correct that you should briefly advise your healthy patients of the side effect possibilities and even some complications.

Dr. KISTNER. I agree and most of the women know this when they come in.

Senator McINTYRE. Thank you very much, Doctor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DUFFY. Just one fast observation, Dr. Kistner. I note that your name is prominently absent from Jack Anderson's column this morning, and I can only assume from that that you did not give your statement to Mr. Anderson?

Dr. KISTNER. Heavens, no. I sent my statement to the committee.

Mr. DUFFY. I have been asked by Senator Dole's staff to ask the following question: Dr. Kistner, earlier in your testimony you referred to the book by John Peel and Malcolm Potts entitled "Text Book of Contraceptive Practice." This book was reviewed on November 17, 1969, and it called it a most unbiased presentation in a rapidly changing world problem. The book's evaluation of oral contraceptives is in the statement made on page 26:

"Until the current generation of oral contraceptives is replaced by more advanced types their widespread use is socially imperative and more than justified medically. Although they are now known to carry a measurable mortality, when this risk is set against that of death due to pregnancy and delivery the use of oral contraceptive proves safer than nearly all the other possibilities that are opened to a married woman."

Could you comment on the qualifications of the authors of this book, and give your evaluation of the accuracy and validity of that statement.

Dr. KISTNER. One of the gentlemen is a senior lecturer in sociology. What senior lecturer in English universities means, I do not know. The other gentleman is an internist, as I recall. Neither one of these people are, perhaps, sociologists; neither one of them are gynecologists. They