

choice contraceptive. I think there should be an attempt at other methods; either rhythm, contraception, diaphragm, jellies, for the worst that will happen to her is she might have a baby a few months sooner. That is not the biggest catastrophe a married couple will run into in their lifetime.

Senator McINTYRE. Any further questions?

Mr. Duffy.

Mr. DUFFY. Yes, I have several.

Mr. GORDON. Doctor, you pointed out some difficulties in physicians getting complete and current information. What would you recommend be done in this field?

Dr. KASSOUF. It is a complicated question. I think there is no simple answer. But looking back over the 9 years, I think it is clear FDA has inherited the safety question by default. The companies did not pursue it. Organized medicine did not do it. The reports we find now are Government-sponsored both in Britain and in the United States.

It would mean to me, one of the answers would be to expand and build and support our FDA to a much greater extent than we have done in the past.

Mr. GORDON. Thank you.

Mr. DUFFY. Doctor, in your practice, how many people a year do you treat?

Dr. KASSOUF. How many people?

Mr. DUFFY. How many people a year do you treat in your practice?

Dr. KASSOUF. I have never kept the score, but I guess maybe—

Mr. DUFFY. Can you give me an answer?

Dr. KASSOUF. I guess maybe I see a hundred a week, maybe more, maybe less.

Mr. DUFFY. A hundred a week. How many of these are women?

Dr. KASSOUF. I practice internal medicine and I would have to make a guess that probably a little more than 50 percent are women.

Mr. DUFFY. For the sake of argument, may we say 50 percent are women?

Dr. KASSOUF. I am unprepared, really, to give you a factual answer. We will call it a guess.

Mr. DUFFY. That would be 50 women a week, approximately?

Dr. KASSOUF. Maybe. There are some youngsters.

Mr. DUFFY. Of these 50 women a week that you see, how many are using oral contraceptives?

Dr. KASSOUF. I never kept a score.

Mr. DUFFY. Can you give me an estimate on that?

Dr. KASSOUF. I really could not. I have not brought a record.

Mr. DUFFY. Ten percent, 20 percent?

Dr. KASSOUF. There is no point in my guessing. It could be 90 percent as far as I know.

Mr. DUFFY. You have never asked them?

Dr. KASSOUF. I do ask them when the symptoms come up that suggest to me there may be a relationship between a drug and their symptoms.

Mr. DUFFY. But unless there is such a symptom, you do not ask them and, therefore, you do not know?

Dr. KASSOUF. We usually ask what medication they are on, but I