

always some idiot who gets up and says, would you give your own daughter the pill?

There are two sensible answers to that. The first is, my daughters are both college age now and they would not do anything I told them to anyway. The second answer, I think, is that in a survey such as this, one is dealing with statistics. These have to be looked at in the light of a group of other statistics. When you come down to a question of the patient, that patient is no longer a statistic.

If you were asked, would you give your wife or your daughter the pill, or would you not, one can only answer, this would depend upon circumstances.

If one felt that in the case of a given patient, the control of reproduction is essential for any of a variety of reasons, and that in the same patient, the only applicable method of controlling reproduction is to use the pill, obviously, you would use it. But if that were not the case, obviously, you would not. And I do not think that we can answer those questions at the moment, sir.

Senator DOLE. Well, would it be fair to say, as I have suggested in the statement I filed on January 14, that we might sort of rely on the doctor-patient relationship in most cases rather than on the Senators?

Dr. CLARK. I think that where the relationship between the patient and his or her physician is a good one, this remains the most reliable guide. However, one must be assured that this relationship is active and effective.

Senator DOLE. I concur in that. But again, would a study based on 21 be based on a representative sampling. Is such a number large enough or is it too small to be statistically meaningful?

Dr. CLARK. This reminds me of Mr. Thurber's answer with regard to the question about the health of his wife. He said, "Compared to what?"

Is it large enough for what? Is it large enough to determine whether there are particular features to these strokes that tend to distinguish them from other more commonly known strokes? It is large enough for that.

Is it large enough to decide whether this is a hazard to which we are exposing American women in vast numbers and they should be protected from it? No, not for a moment.

It is large enough to answer one question, but not the other.

Senator DOLE. I think that is important for the record. I think sometimes; we may read something into a statement that is not there.

The statistics indicate that there are great numbers of women taking the pill, and we have some obligation to develop a balanced record. Maybe we are going to find out that the pill should be abolished; certainly, we should do all we can on the Republican side to make certain proper regulations are followed, that the patients are informed, that the doctors are informed, and that it is as safe as can be made.

The last question, then, is: Based on your own case study and literature you have read, and conversations you have had with other experts in the area, do you generally feel that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages?

Dr. CLARK. Senator, as I have pointed out to you, I am a neurologist. I do not deal with these things, and furthermore, I regret to say that