

the opinions of a man who has reached the time in life when sex is largely a hobby would, I fear, scarcely be accepted generally.

I can tell you a bit about strokes; I am not here to answer whether the pill should be abolished or kept.

Senator DOLE. Well, do you have any opinion on how the dangers of this contraceptive compare with other contraceptives?

Dr. CLARK. What dangers do you mean? If you mean the dangers of getting pregnant while feeling safe, this is an excellent contraceptive.

Senator DOLE. I understand the IUD's may cause cancer in some cases. I think a witness testified last week on the possibility that this may be more satisfactory from the standpoint of health, not pregnancy.

Dr. CLARK. I believe it is generally agreed at the present time that most of the forms of oral contraceptives now available, if taken according to directions, are about as effective a contraceptive, as reliable a contraceptive as the world has ever known, with the single exception of a firm and maintained "No." Without doubt, the hazards of purely mechanical devices such as a diaphragm, the medical hazards are less. But as one moves to these other forms or methods of contraception, medical hazards may be less but the reliability of the method is also less, so the hazard of an unwanted pregnancy becomes greater.

I must repeat, I am not able to estimate this.

Senator DOLE. No, I am not trying to say that you should or should not. I thought if you had any information, it would be helpful to us. I appreciate your testimony very much.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Doctor, for taking the time from your busy schedule to come here and give us your testimony.

I might say that from the very beginning, the Chair has made it very clear, and in frequent statements over the past 3 years, that all viewpoints in a balanced fashion would be heard before the committee. In the implementation of that policy, I have invited regularly every drug company in the United States that manufactures the drugs discussed to come before this committee as a witness or suggest somebody; and, furthermore, that if any drug they may manufacture is discussed before the committee, they would get a priority to be heard ahead of any other witnesses we schedule. I stated that last week. I shall repeat it this week, that every manufacturer of the pill is entitled, as I have told them privately in talking to some of their representatives, and publicly here, is entitled to send a witness.

Some of them have suggested witnesses; they are on the witness list.

Now, I want to say further that one of the national magazines ran a story saying, as did Senator Dole, that the witnesses are 7 to 1 against the pill. That has not been the case at all. If you look down the list, I think you would say that Dr. Hugh Davis, director of the Contraceptive Clinic at Johns Hopkins, was a critic of the pill. He did not say, and neither has any other witness, that the pill should be removed from the marketplace.

Dr. David Carr was neither a proponent nor an opponent of the pill. He discussed the possible genetic effects. I would assume that scientists who have been invited here, such as the last one, who had studied side effects involving the pill, would give their scientific testimony so that the public, the committee, the press, the medical profes-