

he could not prove that he was right, and neither one could prove that the other was wrong. It seemed to me at that point that we had a sort of medical standoff. Very responsible opinions differ with one another, and the issue sort of was left with the question that we needed to test a good bit more before anybody could really address the question with a positive answer.

Dr. HELLMAN. I think in the first place, these two men are both eminent people. They both spoke the truth. They look at it from a different viewpoint. Dr. Hertz is in essence a biologist who looks at fundamental mechanisms. He is a laboratory man. Dr. Kistner is a clinician, and clinicians look at these problems a little differently.

Actually, what they were talking about was a tumor that probably does not really come into very serious consideration with the oral contraceptives, namely cancer of the lining of the uterus. It is possible that the administration, periodic administration of steroids might alleviate this tumor.

I think you are right when you say there is a difference of opinion and it has to be resolved by some very carefully worked out long-term research.

Now, we have another problem besides the animal problem.

Senator NELSON. Doctor, a few moments ago you pointed out that estrogens have been used for the treatment of disease since the thirties.

Dr. HELLMAN. Yes.

Senator NELSON. Are estrogens for the treatment of disease used in the same quantities as for contraceptive purposes and over the same long, sustained period of time?

Dr. HELLMAN. Menopause is the one area where there is a lot of treatment with estrogen, and it is usually treated with naturally occurring compounds and not synthetic compounds. The comparable dosage, and this is very difficult, is probably somewhat less in most cases. The length of time of treatment, however, is pretty long, because it can go from the age of 45 to 70. The data that we have available, and the committee may not have seen this, and I will submit it for the record, goes back to 1958, and this is taken up until 1966. I suppose we have 1967 data available. It records the deaths from cancer of the breast, cancer of the neck of the womb, the cervix, and cancer of the body of the womb in the United States. I will pass this up if you wish it.

Senator NELSON. It will be printed in the record.

(The document referred to follows:)