

Dr. HELLMAN. I think that here again, you can not expect a governmental regulatory agency to act as "big brother" to the physicians in the United States. It is well stated, Senator Nelson, by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists—do you have that statement of January 15?

Senator NELSON. No, we have not.

Dr. HELLMAN. I shall leave it for you. It did appear in the press.

This is dated January 15, 1970, a press release by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. This organization has about 12,000 obstetricians and gynecologists in its membership.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists considers that the oral contraceptives are accepted therapeutic methods available to the patient under the supervision of her physician. As with any method of therapy the decision to use them should only be made on the basis of a conference between the patient and her doctor. The College deplores inaccurate or sensational reports concerning the scientific data:

This is not the press, these are the doctors they are talking about—

On these drugs.

I think we come right down to the question that a doctor and his patient have to decide when the risks and the benefits are weighed for that individual patient, what she is going to use. And I think that those of us who practice medicine as we believe medicine ought to be practiced, do it in this manner.

Mr. DUFFY. Doctor, may I interrupt you for a second?

Dr. HELLMAN. I am through, really.

Mr. DUFFY. There is a very strong implication in the statement by the College of Obstetricians that you just read that some doctor or some doctors have been popularizing scientific data, or something of that nature. Is that the way you read that statement?

Dr. HELLMAN. You know, you are getting me into a position I do not want to be maneuvered into. I do not want to have to criticize my colleagues. But I think there has been some sensationalism by the medical profession, yes, and it is on both sides of the issue.

Senator McINTYRE. Would you yield at that point?

Dr. Hellman, I take it from your testimony that you have the feeling of the committee that after this investigation and study, you had to make a decision as to safe and unsafe with regard to this oral contraceptive?

Dr. HELLMAN. The Commissioner would not let us off the hook, that is right.

Senator McINTYRE. You have also stated in your oral testimony that you personally feel that the yellow light of caution is shining.

Dr. HELLMAN. Yes, sir.

Senator McINTYRE. Now, in the dilemma that you faced in writing this sentence that has bothered this committee a little bit—that is, "safe within the intent of the legislation"—you had apparently to clear it with legal counsel?

Dr. HELLMAN. Yes, I talked to Mr. Goodrich.

Senator McINTYRE. Did you, yourself, examine the record of that hearing, the hearing before the Government Operations Committee of the House?

Dr. HELLMAN. Yes, I did.