

that is going on, on the metabolic effects of these steroids is tremendous.

Senator DOLE. Is there any one type of patient that might incur a greater risk than another?

Dr. HELLMAN. We have all hoped that we could spot the patient. As yet we have no way of doing this.

If you had a patient with an abnormal glucose tolerance curve, meaning she might be a potential diabetic, you would not give her the pill. But this is a difficult task. You cannot do this on eight million people.

Mr. DUFFY. Doctor, may I just clarify something that I believe you said? I do not think you were reading from your prepared statement and I just want to be sure.

Was it your testimony that the scientific data did not warrant the determination that the pill was not safe?

Dr. HELLMAN. Just at the end here, did I say that?

Mr. DUFFY. No, I believe when you were discussing the mechanisms that your committee used in arriving at its conclusions. I think you were at a point where you were saying that you had to come up with a conclusion. Was it your testimony at that point that the data did not warrant determination that the pill was not safe?

Dr. HELLMAN. I think the data did not warrant a flat-footed statement that the pill is unsafe, period, with a recommendation to the Commisisoner that he take it off the market.

Mr. DUFFY. That still remains your conclusion?

Dr. HELLMAN. That is my conclusion, yes, sir.

Senator McINTYRE. Mr. Chairman.

Doctor, I believe you indicated that the most serious complications of the IUD noted by your committee were associated with the closed circle devices, and the use of such devices has now been largely discontinued. Would you outline for us the risks and dangers associated with the type still in use?

Dr. HELLMAN. We still have the pelvic inflammatory disease problem; that is the inflammation problem. As I indicated to you, packaging is much better than it was and we have no data at the present time that indicates any improvement in this percentage. It is too soon to know whether better packaging has resulted in the diminution of this.

We still have the uterine perforation problem, but I think it is considerably diminished. I would hope that the changes instituted on the basis of the IUD report have made that a safer instrument.

Senator McINTYRE. Doctor, you say that among countries without laws prohibiting the distribution of contraceptives, only Japan and the U.S.S.R. prohibit distribution or sale of these drugs, oral contraceptives. Do you know the grounds upon which these two countries have refused to allow the use of the pill?

Dr. HELLMAN. No, sir. The reason I smiled is I made a press statement about it once, but I do not think I would want to repeat it.

Senator McINTYRE. That information, could you—

Dr. HELLMAN. I don't think I have any way of knowing why the Russians did not allow it.

Senator McINTYRE. Twice you pointed out that the benefits and risks of the pill must be evaluated in comparison with those of other