

between his conscientious desire to serve his patients and intensive promotional pressure by drug manufacturers. The sad saga of the pill is one of the most phenomenal examples of such an entrapment of our medical profession.

Senator Nelson, you have expressed yourself many times, particularly in your proposed constitutional amendment, about pollution and the wasting of our natural resources. I think here is the proper place to point out that when we talk about the pill being used by 18 million people in the prime of life throughout the world, we are in fact considering an internal pollution, the extent of which is not yet known, but the nature of which is indeed known. And we are threatening the destruction of a large segment of one of our most precious natural resources, the young women of our society. So pollution in this sense is one of the most subtle and, at the same time, one of the most damaging things about the pill. I think this is the context in which we who urge commonsense in this subject should view it.

Senator DOLE. I do not know whether to call you Author Williams, Dr. Williams, or Lawyer Williams.

Dr. WILLIAMS. Anything you would like, Senator.

Senator DOLE. I think it is well to point out that you represent a number of plaintiffs in medical malpractice cases, so you might tend to be somewhat biased in your testimony.

As a doctor, before you, I understand, curtailed your practice in 1960, had you had any personal experience with the pill? Had you had any experience with the pill other than in lawsuits? Outside of trying any cases, have you had any clinical experience with the pill, any research of your own?

Dr. WILLIAMS. No, Senator, I have had no clinical experience with the pill, although since I became interested in the subject I have talked to hundreds of women. I have listened to hundreds of women who have had problems with the pill. I have not done any formal research. My knowledge and my information comes from the literature and talking to people who have had experience with it.

Does that answer your question, sir?

Senator DOLE. Perhaps. I think you have said very forcefully, and I certainly do not want to quarrel with it at this moment, about the sad saga of the pill being one of the most phenomenal examples of such an entrapment. That is a very strong statement, and I assume later on in your statement you may provide some reasons for that statement and provide some powerful evidence.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I will, sir. I have strong feelings on the subject. I admit to my bias. I am biased in favor of the women who are being sold the pill. I am biased in favor of the millions who have dropped out for reasons we do not yet know.

Senator DOLE. How many lawsuits do you have pending now?

Dr. WILLIAMS. I have none pending, Senator. As a result of my choice and my decision to speak out in this fashion, I have withdrawn as counsel in cases involving the pill. I do not now, and I will not in the future, participate as attorney in cases involving the pill.

My interest in the safety of the pill became acute just 14 months ago. At that time, November 1968, I was associated as cocounsel in a lawsuit against a manufacturer of oral contraceptives. As I delved into