

Senator DOLE. I intend to be patient with you, but I hope we can finish by 12:15.

Senator McINTYRE. I might say, Dr. Williams, that the committee will recess at 12:15 and return at 2:30, for your convenience, because you have been so good to come here and wait. If you do desire, if you have any personal plans and desire to summarize any part of the remaining portion of your testimony in your own interest, that would be fine. However, if you would like to return at 2:30 and resume your testimony, that would be all right.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I would prefer, Senator, to return at 2:30 and not summarize at this time.

Senator McINTYRE. Go right ahead.

Dr. WILLIAMS. As recently as June 12, 1969, one syndicated physician columnist wrote, in part:

Before contraceptive pills were distributed to the general public, untold control studies were done to be sure of their safety. This is one of the great responsibilities of government health agencies which constantly protect the American people from the "overenthusiasm" for new drugs by their manufacturers.

\* \* \* We must not permit ourselves to be terrified into believing that our health and lives are in jeopardy every time we read scare statistics that have no solid basis in scientific truth.

(The information follows:)

[From the San Francisco Examiner, June 12, 1969]

#### YOUR HEALTH—"PILL" SCARE STORIES

(By L. L. Coleman, M.D.)

A most terrifying article on birth control pills appeared in a ladies' magazine. It was filled with terrible tales of disabling injuries to the brain and the uterus. I am certain my doctor would never suggest that I take these drugs if they are as harmful as this article says they are. Are we really risking death or permanent injury by taking these pills?

—Mrs. C. W. T.

Dear Mrs. T.: I happened to see the article you referred to and am distressed by the unnecessary fears it highlighted. Unfortunately, some eager writers, with little or no scientific knowledge, find that the greatest impact can be made by emphasizing fear rather than hope in their writing. I disagree completely with this destructive attitude.

Before contraceptive pills were distributed to the general public, untold control studies were done to be sure of their safety. This is one of the great responsibilities of government health agencies which constantly protect the American people from the "overenthusiasm" for new drugs by their manufacturers.

All drugs may have some potential danger. Even the most innocuous drugs can call forth an unusual reaction in the highly sensitive or allergic person. It is with this understanding that your doctor prescribed the birth control pills. The advantages and disadvantages are carefully weighed in the choice of these pills. You can be certain that all these considerations were appreciated by him for you. There are some risks in everything we do. We must not permit ourselves to be terrified into believing that our health and lives are in jeopardy every time we read scare statistics that have no solid basis in scientific truth.

Dr. WILLIAMS. Just 2 months later the second report on oral contraceptives came out, finally giving some "solid basis in scientific truth," with its own scary data. But they are not accused of trying to scare people like those of us who are more interested in getting the truth out than we are in scaring people.