

The pro-pill press has repeatedly accepted—apparently on faith—it is hard to really perceive where they get the foundation for this—the assumption, generated by the pill promoters, that it is safe.

Senator DOLE. I wonder if at this point, Dr. Williams, you could supply some of the articles on which you base your conclusion that there is a pro-pill press. I think it would be helpful if you have some stories that have appeared in either a syndicated column or news stories or transcripts from radio or television programs. I think otherwise you have made, again, a statement that we need to have some evidence on.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I shall be glad to furnish it, Senator. I do not have it with me.

I would refer you principally to Mr. Mintz' pair of articles in the Columbia Journal. It is well documented.

Senator DOLE. Is that enough to indict the press as a pro-pill press based on two articles?

Dr. WILLIAMS. He cites a great many news stories and sources. There is indeed, or there has been up until recent days, a pro-pill press.

Senator DOLE. I think it would be helpful, if there is a pattern of an effort, knowing or unknowing, to promote the pill or to report only the good things about the pill, not the bad things, in the press, we should have the evidence, not just a statement.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I shall provide it for you, sir.

Senator DOLE. I assume you have read all these articles?

Dr. WILLIAMS. I have not read them all, no, sir. I live in only one part of the country and I cannot read all the newspapers. But I think it deserves a brief anecdote, if you do not mind, and it will illustrate the problem.

Last September, after I gave a talk to a group of lawyers about the pill, a reporter asked if he could talk to me immediately after, and he was in a hurry because he had a deadline to meet with the San Francisco Chronicle. I laughed and I said, "Well, you are wasting your time; your paper is not going to print anything that is critical of the pill."

He said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "That is the story, that is the history of the Chronicle."

He was skeptical. He went ahead and jotted down his notes. A story did come out in the following day's San Francisco Chronicle.

He called me and he said, "You were right; I had one hell of a time getting my city editor to take anything that was critical of the pill; but I fought with him and I got the watered-down story in."

So it is a reality. It has happened. There are many newspapers that have had a policy against reporting adverse stories about the pill.

Senator DOLE. I think the press is one area and I am not defending the press. I think you have a right to make any comment you wish about the press' reaction, but I think you have made it a very broad statement that there must be a policy for all media to push the pill—

Dr. WILLIAMS. I did not say all the media.

Senator DOLE (continuing). Or to report only favorably about the pill. If this is a fact and you think you can substantiate it, we ought to have all the information. I am a lawyer, too, as you are, and we need the facts, as lawyers know.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I shall be happy to provide it, and I will.