

I just thought you would be interested in it.

Dr. WILLIAMS. Then he agrees that it is irrelevant, and therefore, Mr. Gordon, I have to conclude that when he said it, at least in April 1969, it was for promotional purposes only.

Senator DOLE. I think it might be well to have the entire article in the record. Obviously, these sentences are taken out of context.

Dr. WILLIAMS. The entire article is there, sir.

(The document referred to follows:)

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Apr. 9, 1969]

"POWERFUL DRUG"—WHAT A SPECIALIST THINKS OF THE PILL

(By Carolyn Anspacher)

The birth control pill, increasingly a subject of medical controversy, was given the qualified blessing yesterday of one of this country's leading specialists.

Dr. Louis M. Hellman, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the State University of New York and chairman of the Federal Drug Administration's Advisory Committee on Obstetrics and Gynecology, wore only his professional hat in making his assessment.

He said studies have shown that it is ten times more dangerous just to step into an automobile than to take the birth control pills and he added: "Taking the oral contraceptive is about as hazardous as smoking three cigarettes a day."

Here to preside at the opening session this morning of the American Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians at the St. Francis Hotel, Dr. Hellman made no attempt to describe the pill as riskless.

Research, particularly in England, he said, has indicated there are three deaths per 100,000 women who take the pill, and one out of 2000 suffers sufficiently serious blood clotting to require hospitalization.

There is also the nagging worry, he said, that the female hormone estrogen, one of two principal components in the pill, could cause cancer of the cervix. But balanced against the fact that estrogen causes cancer in laboratory test animals, he said, it appears that humans are not so endangered.

"There is not even scant evidence," he said, "to show correlation between the pill and cancer, but because of the animal experiments it has been recommended by the Food and Drug Administration that women on the pill have periodic examinations."

Dr. Hellman said there are about 7 million women in the United States and 15 to 20 million women throughout the world taking oral contraceptives.

"Never before," he said, "have so many taken such powerful drugs for anything, but the control or the prevention of disease, and it poses a problem in epidemiology never known before."

Wide use of the pill, he said, began in 1962 and the final safety results cannot be properly gauged for another four years.

One encouraging signpost, he said, is that the incidence of cervical cancer is going down, and if estrogen were indeed a cancer-producing agent in women taking of the pill, then the graph by now would have begun to rise.

The benign and humorous Dr. Hellman finds public reaction to the pill "very sensible." Absolute safety, he said, is not expected. There are disagreeable side-effects that are topics of common conversation, but the risks are balanced against the benefits derived, he said.

Dr. Hellman said the public should not "hold its breath" waiting for the major scientific breakthrough that will guarantee absolute safety in population control.

"The day-after pill is no good," he said. "The long-active pill that contains no estrogen is under study."

"I have no doubt we will ultimately find a compound that will be injectable and will get rid of estrogen entirely, but it will take time."

Some of the new research now under way will be outlined at today's morning-long symposium on the pill, to be attended by 700 of the Nation's leading authorities.