

Mr. DUFFY. Did you say he said it and one has to conclude that he said it for promotional purposes?

Dr. WILLIAMS. I said that.

Mr. DUFFY. In other words, you would suggest by that remark that he is perhaps paid by the drug companies to make this statement?

Dr. WILLIAMS. I did not say that.

Mr. DUFFY. I do not understand what it is you are saying.

Dr. WILLIAMS. I am saying Dr. Hellman and a great many other doctors in high places have aided the promotion of the pill. This is not to say they have been paid by the drug companies. They have had other reasons to want to promote the pill. But the promotion of the pill to the public does indeed involve these facets, and this is what I am going into.

One more point on Dr. Hellman, by the way: On TV the other night and in his testimony this morning, he said a lot of drugs are hazardous. We had 200 aspirin deaths in 1967, he said. This has absolutely nothing to do with the hazards of the pill, or even the inherent hazards in aspirin. Those 200 deaths are children who took overdoses of aspirin. They may take overdoses of a lot of things. Aspirin is the handiest and has nothing to do with the innate basic toxicity when taken in therapeutic doses. It has nothing to do with the risks as a drug. It simply states a figure for poisoning by aspirin. When it is injected into this kind of discussion, I think it is misleading and has been every time it has been brought up.

The technique of counterscare has been employed by some physicians indulging in gross exaggerations. In the December 30, 1969, issue of the San Francisco Chronicle, Dr. Bernard Nathanson of Cornell was quoted in respect to what he called "second time arounders."

They are "girls frightened off the pill by scarce articles who come in for a diaphragm, get pregnant, end up in the hands of an abortionist and come back chagrined and chastened, and decide that the pill is less risky than ending up on some kitchen table."

(The information follows:)

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Dec. 30, 1969]

BACK TO THE PILL

NEW YORK.—Although oral contraceptives have been in general circulation only since 1961, that's long enough for what one doctor calls the "second time arounders."

Dr. Bernard Nathanson, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics at Cornell Medical College, says "second time arounders" are "girls frightened off the pill by scare articles who come in for a diaphragm, get pregnant, end up in the hands of an abortionist and come back chagrined and chastened, and decide that the Pill is less risky than ending up on some kitchen table."

Other methods of contraception are markedly fallible, the gynecologist points out. "The diaphragm has an inbuilt failure rate of perhaps 10 percent."

Dr. Nathanson says the intrauterine device has a three percent pregnancy rate.

Senator DOLE. Do you disagree with that?

Dr. WILLIAMS. I disagree, Senator, because he did not cite any cases. I do not know any documentation of it except this kind of statement in a newspaper story. I would suggest that this kind of thing be documented and if, in fact, it has happened more than once—which I doubt—then people like Nathanson should come forward and say so, how many times has it happened.