

STATEMENT OF DR. JOSEPH W. GOLDZIEHER, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF CLINICAL SCIENCES, SOUTHWEST FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

Dr. GOLDZIEHER. Thank you, Senator Nelson and members of the committee. I appreciate the privilege of being here, and I am particularly happy to be here in the position of following Dr. Hellman. Dr. Hellman and I have served together on the World Health Organization Committee on Oral Contraceptives a couple of years ago, and I have followed with great care the deliberations and work of his advisory committee in his statement this morning.

In order to avoid repetition in going over a lot of material that he has already covered, I would like to——

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt. I neglected to say this. Some question was raised by somebody, whether you were a recommended witness or not. Let me say that Benjamin Gordon did an extensive job of consulting with a large number of people in making up a list of the best witnesses that we could find, and he compiled his list, and subsequently had a number of people making recommendations as to who ought to be on the list, and as I recall it, from four or five sources, everybody who was recommended was already on the list, save a few people who have yet to be invited. That will clarify the record. Your presence here is at our request.

Dr. GOLDZIEHER. Thank you very much.

On the basis of Dr. Hellman's previous testimony, and with your permission, I would like to skip over the initial page of my prepared statement, which tells about my qualifications in this field; I hope you will permit me to pass over this matter in the interests of time.¹

I would like to address myself to several major points. The first one concerns the great variety of side effects which are attributed to the pill, and which are supposed to be passed on to women so that they can make informed decisions about whether they want to use the pill or not; and I would like to explore in a little more detail than has been done today, just exactly what we know about what we would call the minor side effects.

Then I would like to make some commentary on just two of the major side effects: (1) on how certain we are about the clotting phenomena, and (2) how certain we are about the cancer possibility; and there I might point out that——

Senator NELSON. I am sorry, did you have any biographical statement?

Dr. GOLDZIEHER. The first page. Would you care for me to read it?

Senator NELSON. That is fine. Where is it on the first page? Did you want to add anything to that?

Dr. GOLDZIEHER. Not particularly.

Senator NELSON. All right, I am sorry. I thought you might.

Dr. GOLDZIEHER. Let me address myself first to the question of whether we do or do not know how often women have adverse effects from the pill. In my opinion—and very surprisingly after these many years of research—I believe we do not, because the simple question of how often women have an adverse side effect turns out to be exceedingly complicated to answer.

¹ See information beginning at p. 6356.