

Senator DOLE. With reference to your own study, that involved 10 women?

Dr. KANE. That is quite a different order of business. We were trying to look at the underlying mechanisms, the changes in neuro-hormonism, which I think must be studied. There are changes which seem to vary pretty much with dosage. Beyond that, I think we still have a lot of work to do.

Senator DOLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is no objection, I would like to insert in the record these stories that I have referred to.

Senator NELSON. Sure, we will be glad to have them in the record. (The news articles referred to follow:)

[From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 2, 1970]

THE PILL ON TRIAL: ADVERSE REPORTS LEAD MANY WOMEN TO SWITCH BIRTH-CONTROL METHODS—NO FRESH MEDICAL EVIDENCE SEEN IN SENATE HEARINGS, BUT USERS EXPRESS ALARM—IUD'S, DIAPHRAGMS IN DEMAND

"It's horrible," says a Pittsburgh obstetrician-gynecologist. "The phone has been ringing off the wall. Even people who aren't our patients have been calling."

Something like that has been happening in a number of doctors' offices. The callers are anxious women with questions about "The Pill." Via newspapers, television or word of mouth, they have learned of health hazards attributed to the oral contraceptive in Senate subcommittee hearings called by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin Democrat.

The publicity has been intense. Interviews in the past few days with gynecologists and other practitioners in several major cities confirm that many of the approximately 8.5 million women using the birth control pill are alarmed and distraught.

The interviews suggest that a sizable proportion of women are asking their physicians hard questions about the pill and its hazards, and a number of them are changing to other methods of contraception. But there is evidence that many women who genuinely worry about side effects of the pill are determined to continue using it nevertheless.

IRRITATED MD'S

A number of physicians are irritated about the furor. They say that the hearings haven't elicited any new medical evidence. There are charges that the subcommittee witnesses have included a disproportionate share of pill foes. Most physicians queried had made up their minds long ago about whether or not to prescribe the pill, and the hearings haven't changed their minds. Some, however, are taking new pains to inform patients of the pill's possible hazards.

The controversy reflects a problem common to many drugs. "There's no perfect way to thwart nature," says a general practitioner in Cleveland. "Whenever you alter the natural process, there is some hazard." The decision as to who uses the drug becomes a complex one involving the patient, the physician and the Government.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration, which passes on the safety and efficacy of drugs and certifies them for marketing, indicated last Wednesday that it was considering unusual measures for the pill. The agency said it might require pill makers to include in each package of pills printed matter outlining the possible health hazards. But the FDA said it wouldn't move to take the pill off the market.

ANXIETY QUOTIENT

What concerns Dr. Milton Perloff, a general practitioner in Philadelphia, is the anxiety that the health reports have created. "Most of my patients have gotten quite apprehensive," says this physician.

"Women like the pill," Dr. Perloff says. "It gives them control over a function they think should be under their control in the first place. Most are seriously interested in restricting family growth. Now they're told the pill is