

not an unqualified statement. This was the concluding statement of this paragraph. It is my opinion that the risks of such a pregnancy—in other words, these are the patients who have an unwanted, unplanned pregnancy, and the risks that the infant faces, the socioeconomic situation in which the patient may find herself. Now, in such a pregnancy, under those circumstances, under those economic conditions, I think the risk of a pregnancy for mother and for infant carry a definitely higher risk than the pills would have been in that particular individual. It is not an overall endorsement.

Senator DOLE. I understand that.

As far as your own judgment is concerned, then, based on your own practice, your own experience and your own observation, the pill has a very low priority?

Dr. McCAIN. It does. But yet I know my colleagues pretty well, too, and their response to the figures that are presented is not the same as mine, obviously. With 8½ million women on it, obviously it is not the same.

Then one tries to consider what's really fairest for the patient, for the women of our country. As one weighs what I know the sentiments of the medical profession are, what I know as far as my own interpretation of risks are concerned, my conclusion would be the points that I made there.

Senator DOLE. On page 11, under the heading of "General Suggestions," you say, "It is disturbing to consider the patients on the pills whose depression may have ended in suicide and/or homicide with no recognition of any association with the contraceptive pills." I am not certain I understand what you are saying.

Dr. McCAIN. This is one of the things that is very disturbing. How many people that see a murder that is, where the woman is a murderer, check to see whether or not she has had the pill? How many studies have been made of women who have killed themselves? Is she taking the pills?

Senator DOLE. Are you saying there is some relationship?

Dr. McCAIN. There may be. When I have seen these patients who have come in and without any hint or question on my part tell me of their depression, these three patients very specifically of their suicidal impulses, then one gets to be, if you are going to be fair, it seems to me, you should be very concerned about studies that would really investigate suicides, homicides, divorces, automobile accidents—all of these involve emotional disturbances and no studies are made. It would have to be done fairly, because with the number of women that are on the pill, obviously, many of these would be on the pill, but not necessarily the result of the pill.

Senator DOLE. You do think there may be some relationship between the taking of the pill and driving off a cliff somewhere?

Dr. McCAIN. I do. At least, I am disturbed about the possibility that there may be, and there is no study undertaken at all with regard to this possibility.

Senator DOLE. You base this conclusion on conversations with patients and what they have told you about the pill and the depressing effect it has had, but are you speculating here or stating a conclusion based on evidence?