

Senator HATFIELD. Are we then, as laymen on this committee, merely to draw from this testimony that you have a question as to whether certain problems might result with the use of the pill, but you do not really present us with any basic scientific study to prove it?

Dr. McCAIN. This would be true. Now, as I mentioned during one of the moments of the discussion, at the time this was begun, the general opinion was that there was no risk involved associated with the use of the contraceptive pill.

Senator HATFIELD. You were talking about the necessity of long-term studies, and I certainly would agree with you. In fact, I have felt for a long time that we ought to have long-term studies on all drugs. You mentioned the question about the possibilities, because of a lack of study to prove otherwise, of a relationship between pill users and various violence or homicides and so forth and so on. Are there such studies, or could we draw a correlation between that and, say, other uses of drugs such as—

Dr. McCAIN. Tranquilizers would be one of them.

Senator HATFIELD (continuing). Fluoridation of water? I mean these are certain things that are used. Should there be such studies in relation to other uses of other drugs?

Dr. McCAIN. You are out of my field in fluoridation. I would have to say only what my opinion is as I have understood from the expressed opinion of the American Dental Association and from the American Medical Association, from those whose opinions I respect, that they have found no trouble.

Senator HATFIELD. Well, the John Birch Society and other groups certainly raise some questions about this, but they are not the Dental Society.

Dr. McCAIN. I raise some question—certain studies should be borne in mind, and long-range studies, when one is considering health hazards, because it is true, the immediate recognized dangers should be considered. But there are long-range possibilities and fluoridation would be—well, for that matter, chlorination of the water, too. This would be a very fair consideration. Any time that we are adding a chemical to our environment, it should be kept under—

Senator HATFIELD. You are not singling out, necessarily, the pill, but you would apply this same concern to all drugs that people take that might have some impact, either short-term or long-term, for the human physiological system?

Dr. McCAIN. Well, I would carry a concern, but not the same concern.

Senator HATFIELD. Because it is outside your specialty?

Dr. McCAIN. No, because I think that from my experience and from the reports which I have encountered, which I think are valid, there is significantly more risk involved in the use of this particular medication as compared with some of these others. All medication carries some risk and should not be accepted without consideration. On the other hand, the amount of concern, I think, would have to be evaluated against the evidence of risks that are being encountered.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, Doctor.

Dr. McCAIN. Thank you.