

you are talking about here is six percent who quit the pill on account of publicity out of the 18 percent that said they were quitting in the survey, and of that 6 percent, many are switching to the IUD and the diaphragm. So that again reduces substantially the percentage who are seriously exposed to becoming pregnant.

My view is that dramatic statements that I have been reading by some physicians around the country about how effective the pill is, simply ignore the statistics on how many quit voluntarily.

Dr. CONNELL. I think this may very well be true, but again, I think it is too early to draw any long range conclusions.

Senator NELSON. That is what I am saying. I think the doctors have been premature in drawing their conclusions.

Dr. CONNELL. I think that doctors are seeing their patients and are reporting that some have stopped taking pills and that some are pregnant. This is factual. The final outcome of all this, I agree with you, must remain speculative for the moment.

Also, we are looking at two different groups here, the women who stop a particular type of therapy because they have developed symptoms and the women who stop simply because they are afraid. I think these are two identifiable groups in both of which we are beginning to build numbers. Therefore, when you talk of 50 percent going off, as was testified here before, which group or groups are you talking about?

Again, I think one has to know a little bit more about what the numbers mean. Otherwise, it is statistical gamesmanship.

Senator NELSON. That is what I think has been going on. I have not been making many statistical observations, because I do not think anybody has any statistics yet.

Dr. CONNELL. I think they are coming. I think we will soon be able to do this.

Senator NELSON. Well, that may be. However, I have read dramatic statistics recited by doctors the day after the hearings, that this will mean 100,000 pregnant ladies.

What I do not see is statistical support. Certainly they would not use that kind of scientific evidence or unscientific evidence to make a diagnosis of a physical condition. They should not make such a diagnosis of a social situation.

All of these dramatic statements on the front pages all over the country are probably contributing in their own way to people quitting the pill.

Dr. CONNELL. What I am presenting here is not speculation if I may be permitted to go ahead. The numbers are factual. I do not intend to speculate.

Senator NELSON. You have your 118 patients that you mentioned quitting the pills and going to diaphragms.

Dr. CONNELL. That is a factual statement.

Senator NELSON. They are on a birth control device. How many of those are you now predicting are going to be pregnant against their will.

Dr. CONNELL. I would not predict this. The only way you could estimate this is to look at the use-effectiveness data for diaphragms for the particular patient populations involved.