

Senator NELSON. So the number of people who have switched from the pill to the diaphragm, as advised by many doctors, does not indicate a single pregnant patient.

Dr. CONNELL. This may be true, but I think it is significant that in one month, you have 118 requests, whereas normally you have only 10. I think this is significant behavior. It indicates significant change in behavioral patterns, if you will.

Senator NELSON. That is what I mean.

Dr. CONNELL. This is all I am saying.

Senator NELSON. It does not indicate pregnant women?

Dr. CONNELL. Not yet, no.

Senator NELSON. All I am saying is that you state if they go off the pill, they must become pregnant. You are stating that they went off the pill and went to the IUD or diaphragm, and that is what many physicians recommend at present as a matter of practice.

Dr. CONNELL. I am not saying that all women stopping the pill will become pregnant just because they have changed to less effective methods of contraception. All I am pointing out is what we have observed statistically over a 2- to 4-week span of time, which I think is significant.

Senator NELSON. You say it is significant. We have had a number of doctors who testified that that is just what they would advise for their patients.

Dr. CONNELL. This is perfectly true, and they are certainly entitled to their medical opinion.

Senator NELSON. I thought the argument was made, the comment was made that this adverse publicity in the papers was causing a great catastrophe, and to prove it, you then cite the statistics of how many switched.

Dr. CONNELL. I am saying it has had an undeniable impact. The ultimate impact I would certainly not discuss. I do not think anybody is capable. I am simply pointing out that in certain centers across the country, there has been a change in patient behavior which I think is a perfectly fair statement of objective evidence.

Senator NELSON. I think so. We have a number of doctors who would be very pleased.

Dr. CONNELL. I presume that there might be some who would be delighted, but there are also many who feel quite the opposite.

Senator NELSON. I am sorry; we have another roll call.

It will be 10 minutes.

(A brief recess.)

Senator DOLE (presiding). Dr. Connell, you may proceed with your statement. The Chairman has gone to vote and will be back. In the meantime, do proceed.

Dr. CONNELL. We were discussing the change in patient behavior in a variety of cities, the first one being Detroit. Where before, a total of 60 IUD's have been inserted per month, 107 were inserted, 45 in patients who had switched from pills.

There have been 100 requests for sterilization, both male and female, which represents a marked increase over previous requests.

In Houston, 50 pill patients switched to IUD's and 10 to diaphragms. An additional 2 hours per nurse per day has been needed to cope with the extra activity.