

Dr. CONNELL. That is all right. I am glad to have this clarified, because I do not feel that my soul is owned by any drug company, any more than it is by any Government agency.

Like most of the practicing physicians who have appeared before you, I have conducted research programs because I recognized that our existing information was inadequate and our current methods imperfect. One of the areas in which I have worked for the past 4 years is the evaluation of eye findings in patients receiving oral contraceptives. I presented a paper on this material at the Annual Meeting of District II and III, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, in New York City, on September 23, 1967, and it was published in "Obstetrics and Gynecology" in 1968. It points out the need for background information so that the discovery of abnormalities in a retrospective study does not lead to erroneous and damaging conclusions.

The accusation has been repeatedly made during these hearings that physicians engaged in research were either unaware of or deliberately disregarded the problems connected with oral contraceptives. Even worse, we have been charged with the actual suppression of data relating to these problems.

In a paper which was published last year in "Advances in Planned Parenthood," I described the changes in blood coagulation factors which we have observed in our patients. Hundreds of such papers have been published by me and by many other doctors over the last 5 to 10 years.

Thus it is hard to fathom how anybody who makes even the slightest attempt to keep abreast of current medical literature could say that doctors involved in drug evaluation have not been reporting the abnormalities that they see.

Senator NELSON (presiding). May I interrupt at this point?

Dr. CONNELL. Surely.

Senator NELSON. I just cannot recall the testimony—I am wondering what testimony specifically you are referring to when you say the accusation has been repeatedly made during these hearings that physicians engaged in research are either unaware of or deliberately concealing the problems connected with oral contraceptives. I do not remember that.

Can you tell me whose it was?

Dr. CONNELL. Dr. Williams', as I recall. I do not have his testimony with me, but it is my distinct impression that this was the sum and substance of it. As I recall, he discussed misstatements of facts by prominent physicians promoting the pill, suppression of adverse data from Puerto Rico, and failure to carry out proper research.

Senator NELSON. Then you say the accusation has been repeatedly made. I do not remember Dr. Williams' testimony.

Dr. CONNELL. Dr. Kassouf, also, I believe, mentioned this.

Senator NELSON. What did he say?

Dr. CONNELL. The implication, again, was that a great deal of information had been suppressed by a variety of people, including the clinical investigators. I believe that he used the Drill-Calhoun