

or constructive before. To train these people and see them enter the larger society—it is really a terribly exciting, as well as a very valuable thing to see.

I think this is very important. We need these people; they need our support. They need training. This, I think, is extremely important.

Senator DOLE. How many patients have you seen personally with reference to the pill? We have talked with numbers of other witnesses. Some have seen as many as 10, or at least based studies on that small number. Others have seen hundreds, some thousands. Do you keep any record of the number of patients you have had contact with?

Dr. CONNELL. I am in the thousands category.

Senator DOLE. And, of course, you have been practicing on up from the sort of prepill days through the postpill days.

Dr. CONNELL. I hope not.

Senator DOLE. Maybe not post, but at least during the introduction and beginning of the pill. Do you see any changes now, any differences that you might comment on between women now who take the pill and women before the pill was available?

Dr. CONNELL. I think socially there is just no comparison. The feeling of confidence that women have, the lack of fear of pregnancy, the improved relationships with their husbands, with their children, all these things have made a tremendous improvement in their entire outlook on life.

They also have the assurance of knowing that they can sign up for training and they can assume that they are going to be able to finish it and help to support their families. They can only do this because they have effective contraception.

In this sense, I think we have made a major contribution to the enlarging role of women, in which I very obviously believe. I think this is very important.

Senator DOLE. At the same time you have indicated that not every patient should be a user of the pill.

Dr. CONNELL. I have patients to whom I say, you should never take the pill. You have a contraindication to the pill and it would be dangerous for you to take the pill in its present form.

Senator DOLE. Plus some that may start the pill, and you take them off the pill?

Dr. CONNELL. Of course. This is the essence of good medical practice; to select properly, to follow properly, and to live up to one's knowledge to the best of one's ability. I think that is what a good doctor is.

Senator DOLE. We all share the same concern.

I certainly appreciate your testimony. You are the first of your sex to testify before the committee. There were others here earlier this year who were available for testimony, but you are the first scheduled witness. You have been very helpful.

I would hope if there has been reduction in the use of the pill because of publicity, that the apprehension which has been generated would be balanced as to whether the pill is good or bad. Such is the determination that must be made.