

sociomedical illnesses extant. That, of course, is unwanted pregnancy.

I would like to tally the results of unwanted pregnancy, a condition which is tragically common in our country. First, experts estimate that between 200,000 and 1,000,000 illegal abortions are performed each year in this country, with a death rate estimated to be 100 per 100,000 illegal operations when performed by nonmedical persons.

I would like to add at this point that there is a large, general municipal hospital in the Harlem area of New York City, the Harlem Hospital. The Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Donald Swartz, kindly furnished me data at my request.

Like most city hospitals, the aftermath of illegal abortion has been one of their worst scourges. Dr. Swartz opened an intrauterine contraceptive clinic late in 1963 and until January 1, 1965, employed only the IUD in a relatively few patients.

In 1964, Harlem in the ghetto, had 3,857 deliveries and 1,291 abortion complications cases with five abortion deaths.

With the introduction of the pill in 1965, the birth control clinic rapidly expanded and in 1969 there were 2,226 deliveries, 1,631 (42 percent) fewer than 5 years before; there were 507 abortions, 784 (61 percent) less than in 1964 and zero abortion deaths, five less than in 1964.

The Harlem Hospital prescribes five methods of contraception from which each patient may choose. Sixty-seven and six-tenths percent preferred the pill, that is, until these hearings made headlines.

I am afraid to estimate the Harlem Hospital figures for 1970, but it is fair to assume that the proportion of birth control pill users will decline acutely, abortion admissions will rise, abortion deaths will go up, and in 1971, I am sure that they will exceed the 2,226 deliveries which they had in 1969.

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt, Doctor?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. You do not have a single statistic to support that. This is, as you stated, just your assumption?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Mr. Senator, we have noticed at Kings County; Metropolitan Hospital; Harlem Hospital, that when they have established an active, vital birth control clinic, the abortions in all of these institutions have gone down significantly, and in all of these clinics, the primary method of birth control which patients choose is the birth control pill.

Now, it seems to me that it is not accidental that abortions have gone down among their clients. There is nothing that happened in the social picture which would change this. The thing that has changed it is a very active birth control clinic which saturates the peripheral community around these great hospitals.

Now, if patients depend primarily on the pill—certainly 67.6 is lower than I thought; in most of our institutions, 75 percent take the pill. To me it is pretty obvious that the pill has made a deep impact in these areas, in ghetto areas, on the horrid and undesired illegal abortions which take up so many beds and cost so many lives.

Senator NELSON. I would not quarrel with that. All I am saying is that all that you have said is based upon, as you put it, "I