

We have tried to keep our physicians working in our clinics—there are thousands of them—intimately apprised of all of the charges made against the pill. All of the evidence—certainly any doctor working in Planned Parenthood knew about thromboembolism and the results of Vessey and Doll and that group. They knew it certainly within a week after publication. Now, whether one can do a similar job to the larger medical profession, I have some uncertainty. But I think that the committee has served a useful purpose in making the doctor more careful in regard to this and making him keep up to date with what is going on in the literature.

On the other hand, I have the reaction that unfortunately the layman has tried to share this, and the layman is a terribly confused person.

Senator NELSON. The literature which are distributed by the manufacturers of the pill read quite similarly, deemphasizing any serious side effects, substantially deemphasizing them in a way which I think would be considered inaccurate. Do your clinics give out any of these?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. As far as I know, no, sir. We have our own publications in which we describe the pill, and we do go into some of the difficulties.

Senator NELSON. Now, since this literature comes out to doctors' offices, and this is what the doctor is reading, I assume that if he thought it were inaccurate, he would not give it to his patients.

So we have a situation in which thousands of doctors are handing out the promotional literature of the drug companies, which you agree is not accurate. Does that not necessitate somehow or other ventilating this problem, so that the doctors themselves will become aware, so that the public and the woman who uses the pill will know that the statement I read from the pamphlet, as Dr. Guttacher says, is an unsupportable statement?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I think it is unfortunate that in educating the doctors, you have to confuse the public. This apparently is a byproduct which seems necessary by this technique. Whether the doctor could be educated in a way which would not expose the public to this panic and this fear reaction and distrust, I think is open to debate.

Now, I am not a politician and I know nothing about running Senate hearings, but I think there is a tremendous amount of undigested pabulum which comes out in the daily press. I think the press is trying to be fair, but witnesses have been adverse in the main.

There has been a tremendous amount that becomes terribly undigestible to the average layman. This is my problem, and I am sure it is your problem. I do not think you are trying to panic the American female. Certainly, she has taken the pill for several years with tremendous satisfaction in most instances, and I think still will, until we get a better contraceptive method, and I hope that we will get a better contraceptive method through immense increase in research efforts. I think until we do, I still think the pill has a tremendous and very important indication, and I would hate to see