I believe all those things. I also believe that the public is entitled to have the facts. The facts are being presented by all sides. We have invited witnesses who are qualified to make a contribution to come here. We have invited every drug company to suggest witnesses and come themselves.

We are trying to see that there is a record presented on all aspects of this problem, on my theory, at least, that the public is entitled to know.

Now, that is the fundamental question. If, as a result of the public acquiring knowledge, some of them misunderstand it and some of them panic from it, some of them are disturbed by it, so be it. That is part of the democratic process.

These hearings are presenting everything that experts can tell us about this pill. Nobody to this day has questioned the qualifications of the experts who appeared here, though they have had different viewpoints.

Now, you raised the point that nothing has been raised in these hearings that has not been in the FDA report. What would your view have been if you had been a lay person? The difference is that the information in the FDA report was not put in the papers and only now is being publicized. I have perused the material. It was in some of the medical literature, although much of that was slanted to the final conclusion that the pill was safe within the meaning of the law, with no explanation of what the 1938 law meant.

Now, let us assume that when the FDA report came out, the findings in that report had been put on the front page of the papers? Would not your reaction have been about the same as it is now?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I think people would have read it and then come to the final conclusion, which I admit is framed in verbiage which is difficult to define. But at least it is verbiage which does create a certain sense of complacency in the user. I think that if this committee has the power and the wisdom to perhaps issue a statement at the end of the hearings to put this whole thing in proper perspective, to grant the fact that the pill has magnificent and necessary use for many segments of the population, that there are other birth control methods for some which may be substituted with equally good effect, perhaps this will help a great deal.

I think that the American public is leaning on this committee for guidance. My hope is that if you agree with me that there has been a lot of material which perhaps has been misinterpreted and has become inflammatory, you will attempt in an honest and perhaps even cautious way to undo this, I think it would be a great service.

I do not know whether I am making my point clear to you, sir.

Senator NELSON. I at least do not have the qualifications to draw up a summary of what the experts have said and cnconsions on it, and present it to the public as a valid position respecting the pill, its side effects, and its uses. I have no such qualifications. That is the reason we have called upon distinguished experts such as yourself and many others to state the case for the record.

The problems still remain, if the FDA report, as I said, covered most of the things which have been covered in this hearing, with some exception—some of the material in here has been in much more