

trast three deaths from the pill per 100,000 in America against 900 deaths per 100,000 childbirths in Africa. Three against 900 is quite a considerable difference.

Senator JAVITS. Could you give us, Dr. Guttmacher, as part of your analysis of such a situation, the documentation which Planned Parenthood distributes to the taker of the pill?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I unfortunately did not do my homework; I did not bring it with me, sir. As I have said, I have promised to send it.

Senator JAVITS. Good.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. In my written testimony I went into detail with regard to the rules we impose on physicians prescribing the pill, that they must take an annual Pap smear, they must make an annual breast examination, a pelvic examination, and so on. What I am lacking is the material we give to the patients. We shall certainly submit that. Some of my staff is here and I am sure they will call up New York and get it.

Senator JAVITS. I ask unanimous consent that that become a part of the record.

Senator NELSON. It will be printed in the appropriate place in the record.

Senator JAVITS. Now, could you make any recommendations to us—this will take a little time, but I hope you can do it—as to what must be done in law or at the Food and Drug Administration to more nearly present the dangers and the benefits with the greatest accuracy possible to the patient?

Now, the chairman, I think, said that the United States authorized the pill, or words to that effect. Of course, as I understand the operation of the Food and Drug Administration, it may permit a drug to be distributed, but it does not authorize it in the manner that the chairman uses the word. I do not think we would want to be put in that position.

Did FDA approve the pill? Is that your understanding?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. They approved it after considerable research.

Senator JAVITS. For use as a prescription drug.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. As you know, the pill was started experimentally in 1956 by Pincus in Puerto Rico, and 4 years later, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration for prescription.

Senator JAVITS. Would you give us your recommendation as to whether the approval should be withdrawn?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I am 100 percent certain that approval should not be withdrawn. That requires no thought on my part, sir.

Senator JAVITS. Therefore, the area in which you can help me—I do not want in any way to speak for the committee—the most is to give me your idea as to any changes, which will, in your judgment, more nearly present the case so that the choice of the individual—because it is choice, even though the doctor is ready to prescribe and even recommend it—is as free as possible?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Well, number one, I would say that the physician should be made to understand and appreciate that unless he can see the patient who is on the pill at least every 6 months, he should not prescribe it for her. I think there is danger in allowing a patient to go for an indefinite period without examination.

I think second of all, the doctor should be sufficiently well