

this week who discontinued the pill about a month ago," said Dr. R. Elgin Orcutt, a San Francisco gynecologist. "Two of the three are applying for a therapeutic abortion."

Senator NELSON. Two-thirds of the women are not being told about side effects. I do not know how you persuade the physician to do it. Do you not think, then, that there is some obligation to see that they are informed?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Yes, I would agree with that. I do not think that is too good a substitute. I would like to get the two-thirds of doctors who are not doing it to do it.

Senator NELSON. I would agree with you, but since the fact is that that is what they found—

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I think maybe these hearings have created a different attitude among physicians. I think a new Gallup Poll would not give you that figure.

Senator NELSON. But about the suspected dangers of oral contraceptives, and in the light of the survey, the subcommittee's concern was well founded, a startling two-thirds of pill-taking women say they have never been told about possible hazards by their physicians.

This is another reason why, in my judgment, the hearings are necessary.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. On these statistics, in the first page, Dr. Guttmacher, you state that according to a Gallup Poll reported in Newsweek, February 9, 18 percent of women using the pill had abruptly stopped using it and an additional 23 percent were giving serious consideration to quitting. That would leave the impression that, which I am sure you did not intend, that the Gallup Poll indicated that 18 percent were quitting because of something they had read about these hearings. That was not your intent, was it?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I assumed that was the reason. Otherwise, either these hearings or what they had read in the literature, the Ladies Home Journal and various other publications in the previous 12 months. I do not think they make it quite clear as to the source, but certainly they took the Gallup Poll, because they assumed this was probably going to be the result.

I think it is naive to feel that some of this 18 percent, or most of this 18 percent did not stop because of the hearings.

Senator NELSON. Just going by memory, and I want the record to be correct, my memory is that in the survey 18 percent of the women stopping the pill, 6 percent attributed it to the hearings. So the other 12 percent were quitting it for other reasons.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I see.

Senator NELSON. Of course, I am sure you will agree that that does not mean that that 6 percent, or even that 18 percent, are not going to go to some other method, is that not correct?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. A certain proportion will. I do not think you can tell exactly what proportion. I hope the vast number will, but we cannot prove it.

I think Dr. Daly found that the prescription of the pill in the tremendous Health Department Birth Control Clinics that they have in New York dropped from 67 percent to 47 percent among new patients. That is Dr. Edmund Daly.