

It would be very dramatic and would indicate to the women of America how you view the pill yourself, if you could tell us whether or not you take the pill. I do not want to be impertinent or ask embarrassing questions. It would be most helpful if you have enough confidence in the pill to tell us, have you ever used it yourself?

Dr. LANE. Yes, I have used the pill.

Senator DOLE. And you are aware of all the side effects?

Dr. LANE. Oh, indeed.

Senator DOLE. You have made a value judgment and determined that it is safe?

Dr. LANE. I have precisely. I have three children, all of whom I love very dearly. But I could not tolerate another pregnancy. I hope that I have many fertile years ahead of me. So I feel that with my medical responsibilities, with my career responsibilities, it has been my own choice, the kind of life that I have carved out for myself, that it is absolutely important that I use something which I could have complete faith in. Now, this is not to say that I could not perhaps have complete faith in one of the other methods—not the IUD, because there are accidental pregnancies. I think I could have faith in the diaphragm, but for various reasons, I have decided not to use that method of contraception.

I think my reasons are valid. I help my patient to arrive at this sort of judgment, what is going to be best for her. This is a very, very personal thing and has absolutely nothing to do with population pressures or anything else as far as I am concerned.

Senator DOLE. It is probably very helpful if the patient knows that you have enough confidence in these pills, whatever brand it may be, not only to prescribe it for others but to use it yourself.

Dr. LANE. I do not give my patients this information because I do not want to bias them in that respect. I suppose they will all have it now.

Senator DOLE. But you are personally aware of some of the side effects and have experienced some?

Dr. LANE. Yes, this is a risk that I choose to take.

Senator DOLE. Have you experienced any that caused you any great difficulty, any side effects?

Dr. LANE. Occasional headache, that is all. I am not even sure that that was due to the pill. I am under much pressure much of the time.

Senator DOLE. Your last paragraph indicates that the pill is not significantly different from other medications. It is a delicate question involving judgment. I imagine most physicians have great respect for their patients and do what they must to protect the patient.

I assume on page 1, you neither try to make judgment for your patient nor let them make it without information and assume it is a doctor-patient relationship—

Dr. LANE. It is precisely this, a relationship, with a rather delicate balance many times.

Senator DOLE. You are not trying to push people into using the pill?