

Mrs. PIOTROW. I would say two things. First of all, we are extrapolating now, but with pregnancy, you do not have to extrapolate forever. Within 9 months the figures will be available. So we may have a scholarly dispute at this point as to what the precise figures are. We will know in the fall. It will be possible to determine from the seasonally adjusted birth rates, adjusting for trends and for monthly differences.

It will be possible to determine within a fair margin how many babies born, for instance, in the last 3 months of 1970, might conceivably be traced to these hearings.

So we can argue now, but this is not something we have to wait 10 years to have an answer on. We will have an answer before that.

Secondly, I would say that I am not entirely sure how others arrived at their figure of 100,000 births. The way I arrived at it, and I saw later that others had arrived at it, too—was to figure approximately 1.7, 1.8 million women discontinuing pills. Now, we do not even know precisely from the existing data how many women are taking pills now because there is no count of patients. It is only a count of how many pills drug companies think they are selling. There is no actual count of women taking them, so that this amounts to an estimate.

But if there are approximately 1.8 million women taking pills who discontinue taking pills because of publicity, and this comes from a survey, whether you rely on survey data generally or not—

Senator NELSON. What survey was that?

Mrs. PIOTROW. That was a Gallup survey that was reprinted in Newsweek.

Senator NELSON. What did that survey say?

Mrs. PIOTROW. That survey, I believe, indicated that 18 percent of those taking oral contraceptives had discontinued and another 23 percent might discontinue.

Senator NELSON. Because of these hearings?

Mrs. PIOTROW. Yes. I do not count those 23 percent who might discontinue. I do not know what that means. And I do not know the precise methods by which the survey was conducted. But I think Gallup surveys are fairly well thought of in the survey field.

Senator NELSON. This is the point I made a few minutes ago: that the planned parenthood people and population crisis people, by misstating the facts, are frightening people who believe in population control. The Gallup survey did not say that 18 percent of the women were quitting the pill because of the hearings.

All you have to do is read the article. Dr. Guttmacher apparently did not understand the article either. It was very simple. They said one-third of those surveyed of the 18 percent who said they were quitting the pill did so because of the hearings. That is 6 percent, not 18 percent.

I think it is a dangerous business for responsible organizations to exaggerate the statistics.

Mrs. PIOTROW. I have here from the report that appeared in the New York Times giving these figures: "Polls indicate that 18 percent of pill users—or about 1.7 million women—have dropped the pill as the result of these adverse reports."