

Surely, research to produce more knowledge and better methods toward the control of fertility deserves a higher priority than it has so far received in Government-sponsored health programs.

Thank you, Senator.

(The New York Times article, above referred to, follows:)

[From the New York Times, Feb. 15, 1970]
PREGNANCIES FOLLOW BIRTH PILL PUBLICITY
(By Jane E. Brody)

Doctors across the country say they are beginning to see the first round of unwanted pregnancies among women who stopped using birth control pills after adverse publicity in the last few months.

"I'm now looking for some one to abort a 14-year-old who panicked," said a New York obstetrician who specializes in family planning among the poor.

Another New York physician, a Park Avenue obstetrician, said a patient of his who dropped the pill after reading a "scare report" is in London this weekend to get an abortion.

In California, Dr. R. Elgin Orcutt, president of the San Francisco Planned Parenthood Association, reports that "many are coming in for therapeutic abortions, many are going to England and many others are getting criminal abortions."

These women, who stopped the pill in a panic and are now trying to deal with an unwanted pregnancy, are experiencing "the most serious side effect," Dr. Orcutt remarked.

Dr. Orcutt and about a score of other birth control experts interviewed last week said that they expect the number of unwanted pregnancies to soar in the next few weeks and months among women who have recently given up the pill in favor of less effective contraceptive methods and, in some cases, no contraception at all.

"We regularly see a crop of unwanted pregnancies—a disturbing number of them—after each batch of bad publicity," commented Dr. Selig Neubardt, a New Rochelle obstetrician who is the author of "A Concept of Contraception," a popular book on family planning.

A Gallup poll taken during the first week of this month for Newsweek magazine, revealed that largely because of recent reports of suspected health hazards, 18 per cent of women have stopped taking the pill and 23 per cent more said that they were giving serious consideration to doing so.

Most of the adverse reports on the pill grew out of the Senate hearings on oral contraceptives held last month by the monopoly subcommittee of Senator Gaylord Nelson, Democrat of Wisconsin.

Testimony at the hearings linked the pill to a long list of disorders, including blood clots, strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer and arthritis.

Many physicians in the family-planning field have charged that the hearings were heavily stacked in favor of pill critics who overemphasized health hazards that are at best speculative.

Just prior to the hearings, the long-simmering debate about the pill's safety became intensified with the publication of several books and lay articles and the presentation of broadcasts proclaiming the pill to be dangerous.

SOME REACTIONS TO REPORTS

"Unfortunately," Dr. Orcutt said, "many women who heard and read these reports stopped the pill without calling their doctors and without using any other form of contraception."

Interviews with obstetricians in various parts of the country disclosed that, of the women who did call their doctors, many decided to stay with the pill after being told that the Senate hearings had produced no new evidence of health hazards.

But a far greater number of women, these physicians said, were so disturbed and upset by the reports that they decided to switch to other methods of contraception.