

General DRAPER. Seven-tenths of 1 percent.

Senator NELSON. That is seven-tenths of 1 percent of what?

General DRAPER. Of the total population. We have 200 million people. We have now approximately 3 million, six births in this country, and approximately 1 million, eight deaths a year. So that we would have to bring 3 million, six births down to about 1½ million, which would be approximately offset by a million, 800,000 deaths and 400,000 immigrations, and practically result in a net zero growth rate for this country.

Senator NELSON. I will examine those figures later.

Go ahead, General.

General DRAPER. What long-run effect the widely publicized testimony of these hearings may have is hard to say. One Gallup poll—we have been all over that this morning, but I will repeat it—has recently indicated that 18 percent of women taking the pill were abandoning it—I don't say why—and that 23 percent more were considering doing so. This, I believe would be a disaster.

I am hopeful enough to believe that most of these women, after they and their doctors have weighed the relative risks of taking or of not taking the pill—and I will go into that a little more later—will gradually resume its use until equally effective but better and safer contraceptives are available.

Broadly speaking, there seems to have been very little, if any, new information disclosed that was not already known to the Food and Drug Administration and to the special Advisory Committee on whose advice the pill was found sufficiently safe for continued use under medical supervision. I understand that this position has been reaffirmed after much of the testimony before this committee has been recorded.

The hearings have certainly showed that some doctors disagree as to the seriousness of the pill's acknowledged side effects, and as to possible other dangers. Like any drug, the pill has some drawbacks and some dangers, but the benefits are very great indeed for those women wishing to limit or space their families, and for society as a whole. As one witness put it, "The pill is safe. It is safer than pregnancy, but not as safe as continence."

I believe that it is now clear that—

(1) The pill is virtually a 100-percent effective contraceptive if taken regularly, and is more effective than any other known method of contraception;

(2) It has side effects which are sufficiently serious for a small percentage of women so that it should be used only under appropriate supervision. That would normally be medical supervision;

(3) Many of the feared side effects, such as developing or bringing on cancer, have not been proved for women using the pill, as brought out again this morning;

(4) While metabolic alterations affecting the liver and other organs do result from use of the pill, there is no evidence at this time that they pose serious hazards to health;

(5) The most serious known threat is blood-clotting or thromboembolism; taking the pill appears to increase the risk of death from this cause from one-half per hundred thousand to