

three or four per hundred thousand, although less estrogen content may reduce this risk;

(6) However, if unwanted pregnancy results from discontinuance of the pill, mortality rate associated with pregnancy and child-bearing, excluding abortion in the United States today, is some 20 per hundred thousand for white women and more than three times as high for non-white women;

(7) When an unwanted pregnancy caused by discontinuance or any other reason is terminated by an induced illegal abortion, performed by a layman outside of a hospital—it is estimated on a theoretical basis, these are not hard figures, the risk of death increases again to at least 100 per hundred thousand;¹

(8) The relative risks of taking the pill, of discontinuing its use, or alternatively of using some less effective contraceptive, should be kept in proper perspective by those women who wish to avoid pregnancy, and by their doctors; I think that is the most important conclusion that I could reach about this, but the relative effectiveness and relative risk should be known—this committee's hearings have certainly made the risk of the pill known, but the relative risk should be kept in mind as decisions are made:

(9) For the American people as a whole, the lesson brought home conclusively by these hearings is the fact that neither the pill nor any other known contraceptive method is ideal or without drawbacks and dangers, and that only through a greatly increased program of contraceptive research can either the many questions raised in these hearings, or the population explosion itself here and abroad be satisfactorily solved. Certainly, since a present lack of data is admitted by all witnesses, future large-scale studies are very necessary to determine much more definitely the effect of using the pill on both the present and future generations: also research designed to produce better contraceptives is of equal or even greater importance.

Mr. Chairman, these hearings have had the news headlines for days on end in every town and village in this country. They have been reported on every radio station and every television chain simply because the American people—almost all of them—are interested in reducing or limiting the size of their own families, that is the motivation you spoke of yourself, Mr. Chairman, and are groping for a sure and safe method of accomplishing this by avoiding unwanted pregnancies. At least 15 million women in this country who use some contraceptive method, and including those whose husbands use the condom, must represent, together with their immediate families and close relatives, a clear majority of the people of this country. This means that 100 million Americans, more or less, are directly interested in improving present contraceptive methods.

This committee has clearly proved that we need better methods of preventing conception. This committee can perform a great public service if it will adopt and equally publicize the broad conclusion that the scientific community, whose medical miracles have reduced

¹ C. Tietze, "Mortality with Contraception and Induced Abortion," *Studies in Family Planning*, September 1969, pp. 6-8.