

cialist, and I have been invited here to talk about the public health aspects of the pill in that capacity.

Now, I would be quite an ignoramus as a physician if I did not read the medical literature that was coming out pertaining to this, and the person who reads and keeps up with the medical literature is better informed about the pill than the person practicing in his own office, seeing his own patients, which is simply a mirrored image of himself. Half the time, if his patients develop complications from the pill they go to another doctor.

As a result, he does not even know what is happening in his own practice.

Senator DOLE. Are you board certified?

Dr. RATNER. I am a qualified public health physician. I cannot hold my post unless I am certified by the State as being qualified to handle the public's health.

Senator DOLE. Proceed. Maybe there will be some questions later.

Dr. RATNER. Yes, sir.

And the treatment of medical complications resulting from the use of the pill, would make this an exorbitantly expensive method of family planning. I pointed out at that time that the pill would result in a "sharp increase in expensive, iatrogenic"—which means physician caused disease—and that "although medical committees hastily appointed by the Government and drug houses have concluded (in 1962) that these cases (of thrombophlebitis) seemed coincidental, one is circumspect in concluding that the last word has not been said."

When I became the editor of *Child & Family Quarterly* late in 1967, we initiated a section entitled, "Recent Setbacks in Medicine" to make clear to our readership that not all recent discoveries in medicine represent advance. In it we abstracted articles from the current medical literature reporting medical complications of the pill.

Appended to these collections of abstracts were editor's comments critically evaluating the status of the pill. The material on the pill from *Child & Family* was subsequently reprinted in a booklet entitled, "The Medical Hazards of the Birth Control Pill" (M.H.), and has just been received from the printer.

Because the collection of medical abstracts, editor's comments, the editor's preface commenting on the second report of the Hellman committee, and the introduction by Dr. Louis Lasagna, professor of clinical pharmacology at Johns Hopkins Medical School, is so germane to the subcommittee hearing, a copy of the booklet has been submitted in connection with this statement.

Although I do not wish to take the time to read them now, I would like the "Preface," "Introduction," and the "Editor's Comments" from this booklet to be included as a part of the record of these hearings.

Senator DOLE. Who is the editor?

Dr. RATNER. I am.

Senator DOLE. So the editor's comments you refer to are your comments?

Dr. RATNER. Right.