

English findings do not necessarily apply to American women (*see CF* 7:274-5). How much longer will the FDA continue to grant The Pill a diplomatic immunity not accorded any other drug?

CHILD & FAMILY FALL, 1968

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Senator McINTYRE. I want to ask you, doctor, back there on page 2, who sponsored this publication, *Child & Family Quarterly*?

Dr. RATNER. It is a group of physicians who are deeply interested in human life and reproduction, and incidentally, interested in the rhythm method and they have incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

And I am the editor for them, of this quarterly, which has had a long history of concern with things pertaining to maternity and family and child—

Senator McINTYRE. Thank you very much, Dr. Ratner.

Dr. RATNER. Right.

As a public health physician I am deeply concerned with the narrowed vision of the private physician and the narrow interests of birth control clinics and clinics restricted to special diseases.

It limits them from appreciating what is happening to the health of the country as a whole. We are losing sight of the whole person and we are losing sight of the whole community. We have become insensitive, epidemiologically and ecologically speaking, to our affluent and indulgent approach to medical problems.

The following observations, then, are intended to give a broader view and a better insight into the ramifications in our society of the birth control pill.

IATROGENIC DISEASE

I trust that all physicians, including those who have testified at this hearing, would be in agreement that the ultimate goal of medicine is not simply the cure or prevention of disease but the promotion of optimum health and the achievement of high level wellness.

In practice, however, we seem to ignore, or at least fail to accomplish this goal. Physicians and patients alike tend to be over-enthusiastic about treatment. We have become a pill-swallowing civilization and man a paying animal as if health were a commodity to be bought at the marketplace rather than to be sought through an intelligent respect for nature's norms.

I might add here that when the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, headed by Robert Maynard Hutchins, did a series, the *American Character Series*, and it was initiated at the Hotel Shoreham, Washington, in 1962, I was chosen to write a critique of American medicine, which was entitled "The Interview on Medicine." The above thought is to be found in the Interview.

As a result it is generally recognized that America is the most overmedicated, most overoperated and most overinnoculated country in the world. This has brought about an increasing prevalence of iatrogenic—physician caused—disease and the medical literature abounds with case studies, review articles and books dealing with this malady.