

depression, they can have libido loss, they can have vaginitis. This makes them just more of a cripple.

Senator DOLE. Are you saying that there are 6,561,500 diseased women out of 8,500,000?

Dr. RATNER. No, I did not say that. I said diseased conditions in 8.5 million.

Senator DOLE. How many women are you talking about?

Dr. RATNER. This would be less than 8.5 million women. I only give you one total figure to give you an idea of the problem.

Senator DOLE. You gave a whole page of figures.

Dr. RATNER. If you want a clarification at this point, I would point out two things. In terms of the Westhoff and Ryder report, this constituted 20 percent of the women. In terms of the Newsweek Gallup poll, which was referred to earlier, which came out a couple of weeks ago, 51 percent of the women said they had complications.

So this will give you an idea of the amount of women who have complications. They range anywhere from 20 to 50 percent.

Senator DOLE. You believe the poll was accurate?

Dr. RATNER. Well, it is as accurate information as we have and it supports many other studies, including the Westhoff-Ryder study, which pointed out—I think I am coming to that later—that one out of five women give up the pill, and they say they will never use it again, and the main reason is because of medical complications.

That is one datum. OK?

Senator DOLE. It is OK with me. I do not add quickly.

Dr. RATNER. I did not expect everybody—I thought the least I could do was add it up for you.

Senator DOLE. That is fine.

Dr. RATNER. Let there be no doubt about the medical dangers of the pill. I think it sufficient to recognize that we never had congressional hearings on the safety of other methods of conception control such as foam, diaphragm, condom, or rhythm.

The incidence of death from the pill is of the same order as deaths from chloramphenicol (M.H. pp. 2, 59) and diet pills—and both of these have been subject to congressional investigation by your subcommittee. The deaths from chloramphenicol is three per 100,000, and this is precisely what the pills are, three per 100,000.

To place the dangers of the pill in sharp perspective, let me translate a mostly ignored conclusion from the "Chairman's Summary" of the "Second (1969) Report of the Advisory Committee on Obstetrics and Gynecology."

Dr. Hellman states that of all causes that kill women annually in their child-bearing years almost 3 percent of deaths in women users of the pill are caused by the pill. This was in his "Chairman's Summary" of the report that came out in August.

Many a voluntary health agency launched to save lives from a particular disease have been launched on an incidence of deaths less than that caused by the pill. To illustrate, the pill which the obstetrician prescribes contraceptively causes more deaths—approximately twice the number—than are prevented when the same obstetrician immunizes a pregnant woman against poliomyelitis.