

medical profession into a false sense of security in respect to the safety of the pill.

I would like to conclude this section by saying that the social engineers—I am not talking now about people helping women not to have babies in birth control clinics—that the social engineers, i.e., the population control experts, in promoting the pill regardless of safety are practicing chemical warfare on the women of this country—

Senator DOLE. What page is that on?

Dr. RATNER. I just added this.

Senator DOLE. That is an indication?

Dr. RATNER. That is a conclusion and the young lady has it down. It is a conclusion to the section on iatrogenic disease, which listed over 6 million episodes of illnesses imposed on 8.5 million women. I call this chemical warfare.

And I only hope—and this is a word to the Senators—I only hope that since the Federal Government is tying up aid to developing countries so that family planning and birth control programs must be included, that somewhere along the line developing countries like the Asiatic and Latin American countries do not end up accusing the U.S. of practicing chemical warfare against their women.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PILL

I cannot help but remind you here preliminarily, that when General Draper said this morning, "The pill is virtually 100 percent effective contraceptive if taken regularly," that frankly everything is 100 percent effective if done regularly, including abstinence. If you practice abstinence regularly you will have 100 percent effectiveness and the trouble with every birth control device, including the pill, is that there are multiple psychological reasons why none of them are practiced regularly.

The effectiveness of the pill in the field is lower than the publicized claim of virtually 100 percent effectiveness; furthermore, the acceptance rate of the pill over a period of time is in actuality as low or lower than other birth control methods.

1. Drug companies and enthusiasts promoting the pill consistently compare the effectiveness of the pill determined under advantageous circumstances to the effectiveness of other birth control methods measured under unfavorable conditions. When comparing the pill to the diaphragm, for instance, pill promoters use effectiveness rates of diaphragm users obtained from clinic figures which are approximately 18 times higher than rates in women under private gynecologic supervision. The latter constitute the majority of diaphragm users.

Although Dr. Guttmacher reported last week that "the pill is simple to take, requiring little effort on the part of the user," he neglected to mention what he has complained about on other occasions: The inability of the American woman "to count up to 20" and therefore to take the pill as directed. The failure of patients in general to take drugs as directed is noteworthy and has been thoroughly documented in numerous studies.

Forgetfulness occurs even when it involves serious threats to life.