

gapore the pill only achieved maximum usage of 61 percent among people offered birth control. Thirty-nine percent of the people used other methods offered by the health ministry. Furthermore, in a study "covering a possible maximum of 18 months use" "the percentage of acceptors of oral contraception still using the method" was 55 percent. "Medical reasons contributed the most to the discontinuation rate in each cycle," and 65 percent of the women discontinuing the pill turned to the condom which was "the most popular alternative method of protection." This casts quite a different light on the Singapore situation. (Studies on Family Planning, Singapore: The Use of Oral Contraceptives in the National Program, December 1969. The Population Council).

THE PILL AND POPULATION CONTROL

The pill was originally introduced and acclaimed as the solution to the world population problem. The subsequent ascendancy of the IUD as the chief method for population control was silent testimony to the fact that the pill did not live up to its expectations. More recently, we have witnessed the Agency for International Development shipping condoms to India, and the Ford Foundation granting over one half million dollars to a gynecologist at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, to perfect the much ridiculed rhythm method. The fact is that in no nation of the world, including the United States, has it been demonstrated, that national birth rates have been reduced by virtue of the unique or indispensable properties of the pill as a contraceptive. Some of the reasons for its failure have been suggested above. Actually, when women and couples are serious about controlling conception, they will make any one of a variety of traditional methods work. This was demonstrated in the depression years of the thirties at which time the United States had the lowest birth rate in its history, a birth rate only matched this past year. The low rate of the thirties occurred 30 years before the new dangerous contraceptives were introduced. Again it should be remembered that the post-war decline in birth rates started in the United States in 1957, 3 years before the pill was approved by the FDA and another 4 years before the pill became popular. So there is no evidence anywhere on a national basis to attribute to the pill a unique contribution to the reduction of birth rates.

UNWANTED PREGNANCIES

In Dr. Guttmacher's testimony of last week he stated that "The pill is the most effective means yet known to prevent a very serious affliction, unwanted pregnancy."

The concept of unwanted pregnancy is one of the most confused, misused concepts ever to enter the vocabulary of the social engineers.

To be very candid, let me first state that according to all of the large scale studies made about wanted and unwanted pregnancies in the United States the evidence clearly indicates that most Americans, and that includes the majority of us in this chamber, are the result of unwanted pregnancies at the time of conception. And I had two references, standard references for you. I won't bother reading them to you.⁴

⁴ See reference 4 of Bibliography.