

Mr. DUFFY. Would that suggest, Doctor, there was contraceptive failure?

Dr. RATNER. No, the way they are using the term now is to say, and I am quoting from Dr. Guttmacher—unwanted pregnancy at the time of conception, he reported, 40 percent of the babies are the result of unwanted pregnancies at the time of conception. This was given at the last annual meeting of the planned parenthood in New York. Now, this means that if 2 weeks after the woman becomes pregnant she is happy about it, it is still listed as an unwanted pregnancy. And when this term was originally introduced to mean excessive fertility, it included unwanted pregnancies, even if only one of the partners did not want it.

Now, to make this point clear, evolution has been also deeply concerned about this problem otherwise we might not have made it here. There are mechanisms in the baby to convert it from being unwanted to wanted. Prior to quickening—the silent period frequently associated with nausea and fatigue—a woman may be receptive to the idea of an abortion. But once the baby starts kicking sufficiently to produce the sensation of quickening the woman's attitude changes. The woman now knows she has a baby inside and her attitude to an abortion radically changes. When the baby first smiles at the end of the first 6 weeks—the smile is actually an atypical facial reflex to colic—from an evolutionary point of view, the smile contributes to the conversion of an unwanted baby into a wanted baby.

Evolution has worked out a whole series of events in the baby's life which helps to make him wanted. To be wanted is the most imperative need in this little defenseless human being's life.

An authoritative study on unwanted conceptions conducted under the auspices of the Social Science Committee of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America was published in "Eugenics Quarterly" in 1967 (47:143-154) under the title, "Unwanted Conceptions: Research on Undesirable Consequences." After an exhaustive study of the literature its author, Professor Edward Pohlman, concluded as follows:

There is a contention that unwanted conceptions tend to have undesirable effects. This article has implied some channels whereby such a causal relationship is almost completely lacking, except for a few fragments of retrospective evidence . . . at a common-sense level one may feel fairly confident that induced abortions, out-of-wedlock conceptions, and illegitimate births are the results of unwanted conception and produce undesirable effects. But these common-sense observations are available from the armchair. It was the hope of this article to find more convincing systematic research evidence and to give some idea of the amount of relationship between unwanted conception and undesirable effects. This hope has been disappointed . . . the present writer attended a conference at (a) Population Crisis Committee. The writer and others found it somewhat embarrassing to have to confess that there was little clear evidence that unwanted conceptions were in a worse light than other conceptions.

So I want to emphasize to this committee that when people assume and imply all of the dire consequences to the unwanted child there is little scientific research or data to back this up.