

The population explosion sincerely troubles learned heads and far-sighted leaders have advocated numerous measures to control the situation—even to altering portions of the tax structure. Worry is evinced as to how to house and feed future generations. Educational facilities are even now bursting at the seams and standards continue to fall in spite of the most intensive efforts. Scarcely a magazine or newspaper can be found wherein this subject has not been discussed—some portraying a rather dismal future for our children—and their children.

Abortion has become a burning issue throughout the country and while a few enlightened States have changed their laws, and thus met the problem head-on—instead of losing themselves in theoretical and theological labyrinths, most have not. Even in those permitting termination of pregnancy there is considerable difference of opinion not only from one area to another but from one hospital to another within the same city. We do not have to look further than our own city of Washington for an all too clear example of this problem.

These discussions, studies, and investigations have begun to crystallize the problem all too well—but, gentlemen, I fear, at an increasing and unnecessary cost to our women.

The past decade or two while bringing improved social and cultural liberties to the American woman has in addition brought the light of sexual emancipation—and long overdue it has been. Orgasm is now a polite word and a heritage she has the right to expect. Her physical and emotional needs have been unveiled in order that man can recognize his woman as a sexual partner rather than a recipient.

While these changes have brought the opportunity for a bright new horizon to the American woman, they still have not exonerated her from the basic responsibility for pregnancy. No matter what changes may yet occur—the male will still not be able to get pregnant—and right or wrong, its prevention is generally left to the woman—too often at the last and the most inopportune moment. The male too frequently expects his partner to provide complete contraceptive protection, as long as it does not interfere with his enjoyment or her availability.

The introduction of the pill about a decade ago has done much to bring the sexual emancipation of women to fuller fruition. Last minute, hurried, and often unromantic preparations are no longer required and she has been freed to experience the pleasure of sex on the highest emotional plane—content and relaxed in the knowledge that she is completely protected against an unplanned pregnancy.

This approach to simple and effective family planning measures has been so successful that millions of American women have requested and have been given this protection. As a recent member of the U.S. Air Force and a senior obstetrician/gynecologist, I was deeply involved in the institution of family planning clinics in the Armed Forces following the DOD directives of late 1967.

Senator DOLE. Could you go into detail. I am not familiar with the DOD directive of late 1967.

Dr. PETERSON. This was an instance wherein Mr. McNamara and the Department of Defense authorized the Institution of Family Planning Clinics throughout the Armed Forces in the dispensing of not only the oral contraceptive, but mechanical contraceptive meas-