

Senator DOLE. Have you had any contact with patients who stopped using the pill as a result of what they may have read or heard about the hearings?

Dr. SCHULMAN. Yes, we have had many.

Senator DOLE. You mention inflammatory statements and headlines, such as, "Pill May Cause Cancer." Were these the overriding concern of those who have contacted you?

Dr. SCHULMAN. I think this is the principal problem, the linking of the pill with cancer does present a significant fright to anyone.

Mr. GORDON. Doctor, when you say they went off the pill, did they go to another form of contraceptive?

Dr. SCHULMAN. No, they did not. These were patients in a municipal hospital setting.

Mr. DUFFY. Doctor, just to pursue the line of questioning begun by Senator Dole.

Of these patients that you have seen that have left the pill, for whatever reasons, do you know any of them that have become pregnant at this point?

Dr. SCHULMAN. Well, I am aware of three patients, one of which I would think probably stopped taking the pill because of the preliminary discussions regarding the hearings, and this patient did receive an abortion in our institution last week. There are two other women who have applied for abortion within the past week, who claim they stopped taking the oral contraceptives on the basis of the information which they heard.

Mr. DUFFY. I ask you that question again, and I would like to remind you that a prior witness was quite definite, he said this was just not possible. And in view of that statement, is your answer still the same?

Dr. SCHULMAN. I think it is possible if a woman had stopped taking the pills the 8th or 9th of January. Then ovulation could easily have occurred 10 or 11 days later, therefore, pregnancy would become apparent toward the end of the first week or the second week of February. These patients appeared in the last week of February with their pregnancies.

Senator DOLE. I think it is probably common knowledge now that these hearings have had great impact on American women who were using the pill. Now, since no one knows about some of the side effects, the complications or dangers of the pill, whether this impact may have been beneficial or not, but I think we all agree it has had an impact. We have had letters in our offices and telephone calls and conversations with physicians that we know, and as you say, you have had telephone calls, Dr. Peterson has, and I am certain every other physician who may have prescribed the pill has been contacted.

But I think you make one good suggestion, which was stressed by Senator Javits earlier today, and that is what we should do now, of course, and what we will do is issue a report of our findings and hope that they are widely publicized. As I believe, if we can reach an agreement, if we are not going to decide the issue of whether or not it causes cancer or any other side effect, as you say, by majority vote, but we can perform a service, I think, by working very hard in