

APPENDIX VII

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., March 4, 1970.

To: Subcommittee on Monopoly, Select Committee on Small Business.
From: Education and Public Welfare Division.
Subject: Articles discussing side effects of oral contraceptives.

This is in further reply to a previous request from the Staff of the Subcommittee asking the Legislative Reference Service to undertake a study of the patterns of oral contraceptive advertising appearing in selected medical journals and a review of any articles appearing in these journals which seem to draw the attention of the reader to potential or actual side effects of oral contraceptive products used in human beings. We have already forwarded to the Subcommittee the information dealing with oral contraceptive advertising. A description of the number and types of articles discussing the side effects of oral contraceptives is outlined below.

1. *Journal sources and methods used in preparing this review*

As requested by the Subcommittee staff, the medical journals to be examined for this review were the following: *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, published by the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; *GP*, published by the American Academy of General Practice; and *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The survey period covered a span of three years for each publication, from January 1967 through December 1969.

In order to obtain a complete listing of all articles appearing in these journals dealing with the effects of oral contraceptives, we examined the subject index for each publication which appears at the end of every volume and lists by various subject classifications of every article appearing in each issue, including articles in the form of a research paper, editorial comment, capsule announcement, or correspondence from readers. For the purposes of this review, we have eliminated any articles dealing with oral contraceptives which were limited in discussion to merely a statistical reporting of the relative success of various contraceptive methods in preventing actual conception. However, if articles falling into the above-mentioned category also made references to actual reported side effects or adverse reactions to the oral-chemical agents, these articles were included in the information presented here. Also excluded from this report were articles which were concerned only with a technical study of the physiological action of oral contraceptives and which did not contain specific reference to potential or actual side effects which might result from the type of physiological action described.

The tables which appear at the end of this report summarize, by journal, the total number of articles discussing potential or actual side effects of oral contraceptives. Also, the data for each journal has been subdivided to show the following:

1. Total number of articles specifically recommending caution in prescribing oral contraceptives for individuals with certain conditions predisposing to adverse side effects.
2. A classification of articles indicating the types of potential or actual side effects under discussion.

We have attached a list of the articles examined in this review arranged alphabetically by title under each journal surveyed. There appears to be a consensus of opinion in the majority of articles surveyed containing recommendations regarding limited prescribing of oral contraceptives for women with certain medical histories that the advantages of the pill outweigh the potential or actual risks in long-term use in human beings. It might also be pointed out