

Abortion Safer And Better Than The Pill

TORONTO (CINS) — "It is much more effective to have an abortion to terminate an unwanted pregnancy — and safer — than trying to prevent a pregnancy by using the pill."

Barbara Seaman of New York, author of *The doctor's case against the pill*, said there is indisputable medical research to support her statement.

The introduction to her book is written by Hugh J. Davis, director of the contraceptive clinic and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Johns Hopkins university school of medicine.

"Never in history have so many individuals (8 million women) confidently consumed such a powerful medication with so little information as to potential hazards and alternatives.

"After ten years of availability, and five years of increasingly widespread use, the evidence regarding the risks of taking oral contraceptives is only now beginning to reach the medical literature.

"Recent studies have brought to an end ten years of wishful thinking regarding the safety of the pill."

Davis gives the responsibility to physicians, government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry to face "the unpleasant task of explaining to millions of women that the birth-control pills are neither absolutely safe nor absolutely effective."

Seaman stated that "the doctors who went to the route of reassuring their patients that the pill is fine, safe, free of worry — are now confronted with the evidence that the pill isn't safe. It's embarrassing for them to admit now that they were wrong.

"They are uncertain on how to keep their patients' respect and backtrack on the pill."

She stated that Dr. Robert Kristner, in his book *The pill*, ignored studies indicating that use of the pill is extremely dangerous.

"At least one housewife who developed epilepsy has received an out-of-court settlement from the manufacturer of the pill she has taken," she said.

Seaman lists cases which are backed by research, ranging from frigidity through neurological disfunction to death.

Next Moratorium Plan For Dec. 12

WASHINGTON (CUPI) — The monthly series of moratoria against U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam will continue December 12, 13 and 14, Moratorium organizers said recently.

But another mass rally like the one that drew 250,000 demonstrators to Washington a few weekends ago is not planned for several months.

Because of examinations in December, the organizers do not expect the strong campus demonstrations that have marked the two previous moratoria. The protest will concentrate instead on leafletting, discussion sessions and other local activities.

She writes, "As long ago as May 1966, William Masters, author of *Human sexual response*, director of the reproductive biology research foundation and one of the United States' leading sex scientists, said, "The first question we ask about patients who have been referred to us for frigidity is, has she been taking the pill?"

She notes that many doctors are deeply concerned about the possibility of genetic damage that can occur.

"Dr. David Carr, of McMaster University in Hamilton, found a striking increase in a rare chromosomal defect known as triploidy among the babies of women who conceive within six months after going off the pill.

"Most of the babies with this defect die in the womb or at birth."

Seaman said that many doctors "scoffed at women who asked them whether this or that ailment could be caused by the pill.

"The stock reply, not

always put so bluntly was, "it's all in your head."

"The doctors scoff no longer. It is now recognized that the hormones in the pill affect virtually every system of the body and may produce extremely bizarre responses.

"More than 50 different side effects have been attributed to the pill.

"Frankly, I'm trying to scare the hell out of women — and the men who should be feeling some responsibility."

She feels that the pill has become a crutch for the social planners who consider it is worth taking the risks with the health of women because, in their opinion, problems of overpopulation and unwanted pregnancies are greater risks.

"There is enough research to show that the women who take the pill don't need it," says Seaman. "They are the ones who used other contraceptive measures such as diaphragms before switching."

She recognizes that other methods of birth control are "more trouble for doctors, and

some women can't be bothered.

"But if a woman wants to control family — if there is an unwanted pregnancy, she should be allowed by law to terminate it.

"The abortion laws are hypocritical. Any woman who

has the cash can have one. But the poor woman — now, that is real discrimination. She has to be a guinea pig for pill-dispensing doctors or turn to such horrors as using a coat hanger to bring on an abortion."

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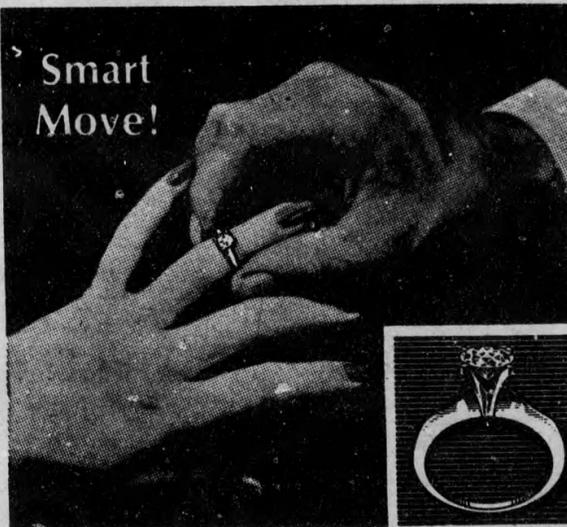
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