

Provera for the government, show that a representative of Upjohn was invited to listen to the committee's reasons for rejecting the company's application to have Depo Provera approved for contraception (Lexchin).

Extreme secrecy is unnecessary and benefits no one but drug companies. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) review committee meetings are open to the public, so observers can see what information drug companies have submitted to prove to safety and efficacy of their products and who is involved in judging their applications. When a drug is approved, the FDA releases a summary of the information they considered in approval. And U.S. drug companies still manage to turn healthy profits. At the very least, opening up Health Protection Branch's review committee meetings would allow consumer groups to monitor the drug approval process and inform government of their concerns and needs. With high-tech reproductive technologies such as Norplant, informed consent is impossible without informed consumers. Every woman needs to know and understand what long-term risks and side effects she may be exposing herself to—especially because Norplant, as a contraceptive, will be used in healthy, young women. Until there is more freedom of information about Norplant, it is difficult to believe the implant offers women contraceptive freedom.

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MICHELE BIRCH-CONERY

Adoption

The first picture ever taken
of her (July, 1944) discovers

her in her plaid skirt and white
blouse, the thin white socks,

white unpolished shoes worn
when she came from the foster

home. Always I see
her arriving crystalline

bright, her childhood innocence
intact. I remember

the walk from the CPR station
(a short half block) to the Wilson

Street apartments. She would act
grownup although embarrassed

by her child's suitcase, its cardboard
handle broken already from the train

ride, Vancouver to Trail. They
can hardly wait to capture

this moment. Alone
against the drab stucco

of her new home she appears
bewildered, small for her age.

How is it that so immediately
and without warning

she is becoming their dream?

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