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Zimmerman*

How to get 6,000 Abortions a Day
The Catholic Church and Population Control
Bucharest Notebook

A Pro-Life Classic by the US. Coalition for Life

"How to get 6,000 Abortions a Day"

Two eminent Catholic priests have written optimistically about Government action in the field of birth control (Pastoral Life, July-Aug., 1966). Their optimism would wilt, I believe, if they had more experience with the ugly reality of government programs now operating outside the United States.

Father John A. O'Brien indicates great confidence that peoples of developing areas will practice birth control successfully if they are only provided with needed information. "Give the people light enough and public opinion will not only reflect the facts when properly explained, but also demand action in accordance with them." (I presume he means public opinion as possessed by enlightened citizens, not the end product of a brain washing process which obtains superficial compliance with the will of manipulators of mass media, and is a species of coercion.)

Fr. Dexter L. Hanley, S.J., quotes with approval a statement which similarly supposes that a government can obtain a reduction in birth rates by opening clinics in which people can freely obtain information about methods of birth control which agree with their consciences. We truly wonder whether he is aware of how far beyond this point governments have already gone in their efforts to reduce birth rates. Mere clinics would get them nowhere. As Mr. R. P. Goyal told us at the Second World Population Conference (Belgrade, 1965), attendance at Indian Family Planning Clinics is minimal, averaging about 6 persons per month. To reduce birth rates, governments are using psychological dynamite and bulldozers, not stories about bees and flowers.

Both writers gave a kind of left-handed approval of government action which is at once effective in lowering birth rates, but which does so without coercing the people. The facts which are here detailed will indicate, I believe, that their expectations are not realistic.

Contraception, Abortion, Sterilization

It is significant that Japan's notorious abortion problem arose against the express wish of the government, and despite specific efforts to prevent

just such a thing. The intention of the birth control movement, which became semi-official with passage of the Eugenic Protection Law in 1948, was to lower national birth rates by popularizing contraception and rhythm. Abortions, nevertheless, spread like an epidemic, their number rising from about 50,000 per year to 2,000,000 within the space of five years. Today, 18 years later, there are 6,000 per day as thriving gynecologists perform operation after operation on mothers who give fatalistic consent. Recently the number has begun to decline slightly, at least if we can trust official statistics. Some claim the people are finally becoming more skilled in the use of contraceptives; others say the figures are unreliable, or that sterilization induced by abortion and by operations are reducing abortions bit by bit.

On November 8, 1961, South Korea adopted a policy of popularizing conception control to reduce the national population growth rate. One year later several leaders of family planning in Japan visited Korea and warned against the danger of abortion. Japan had adopted the policy of giving guidance in conception control, they explained, "to get rid of the horrible effect which induced abortion has on mothers in body and mind." Korea should take precautions from the outset: "It is felt keenly that the Government of the Republic of Korea ought to take measures to prevent the cases of induced abortion from increasing in number," stated the group after noting with concern that abortions were already on the increase. ("Summary Report of Inspection of the Family Planning Movement in the Republic of Korea" by Tachi, Kubo, Muramatsu.)

Korea Tries Too

When I visited Korea in the summer of 1964, the family planning program was well on its way, matching Japan's performance of a decade and a half earlier: newspapers and magazines featured it almost daily, radio announcers wove propaganda into the newscasts, school teachers distributed take-home pamphlets, posters lighted street corners, movies spelled out details. Public Health Centers opened special departments, manned by trained personnel,

to give mass instructions and individual guidance; student nurses were paid during the summer to do field work, spreading the message from house to house. I asked the director of a large health center whether he didn't believe that abortions were increasing as a result, and that abortions would account for the major part of any success in family planning as it does in Japan. He lowered his eyes, and answered softly, "It is true; it is inevitable. But it is part of my job now." Another public health official said he is opposed to full liberalization of abortion laws as proposed by a bill then before the National Diet; however, he hoped for some liberalization, because abortions were increasing rapidly, and he wanted a legal method of studying their effects. And another Korean official told us at the Second World Population Conference that a nation which launches a birth control campaign owes it to the citizens to liberalize abortion laws to a certain extent. There will be many unwanted pregnancies, he explained, and the people should have a method of meeting this problem.

At a pilot project around Kimpo, in which the Lippes Loop Intra-Uterine Device (IUD) was featured, there were 6.4 abortions per 100 births at the beginning of the project, 17.2 a year later, and 23.9 at last count. And at Wondang the total number of abortions during a two year pilot project to popularize contraception was higher than the total during the entire lives of the women up to that time. In Seoul, among 3,204 women, there is a total reproductive history of 14.7 abortions per 100 live births. In 1961 this was 21.1; in 1962, 37.6; and in 1963, 49.0. Despite precautions, therefore, Korea appears to be well on its way to rival Japan as an "abortion paradise," as Japanese newspapers put it.

Dr. Bernard Berleson, Vice President of the Population Council in New York, America's leading non-governmental birth control promotion center, reported as follows concerning family planning and abortion: "Valid scientific surveys from four different countries have shown that increasing motivation for family planning brings in its wake an increasing incidence of induced abortion." (Cited at World Population Conference.)

Dr. Ronald Freedman stated at the World Population Conference that an increase of abortion is apparently an important factor in the initial stages of a decline in birth rates, and that it is probably safe to say that abortion is the most used method of birth control in the world today.

One estimate of the number of abortions committed annually in the world today runs as high as

30,000,000. Our knowledge about its prevalence is fragmentary, of course, but I know of no better estimate.

IUD Doesn't Stay

Many have hoped that the IUD would put an end to worries about abortion. The following data, however, gave little reason for optimism.

At the Second Regional Seminar of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (Tokyo, May 25-6, 1966), Dr. Chen reported that there were 178,000 acceptors of the IUD in Taiwan at the end of March. A random sampling interview, covering 2,181 cases throughout Taiwan, indicated that there were 8 pregnancies per 100 women years of users, and that 78% of them were terminated in abortion. The survey also revealed that the majority of the women had stopped using the IUD after a year and a half: 31.4% stopped after 6 months, 49.7% after a year, and 64% after 18 months. Dr. Chen reported: "If the Province-wide interview reflects an accurate picture of the large scale IUD program, almost one-third of the loops inserted are gone after 6 months, half of them after one year, and two-thirds of them are discontinued for use after a year and a half." The pregnancy rate of the discontinued users was much higher than anticipated, 55.3 per 100 woman years. "Since most of these pregnancies, however, will probably end in induced abortion, the actual fertility rate of these women might not be high even after the use of the IUD is discontinued," he observed.

Professor Chun of Hong Kong reported at the same Seminar that the pregnancy rate of women with the IUD device in place was 2.7%. He continued: "Accidental pregnancy is a real disadvantage in the use of this method. Patients are often very upset or even hysterical when told that they are pregnant. Dr. Guttmacher (USA) recommends induced abortion for such patients who get pregnant, but this is prohibited in Hong Kong. . . The abortion rate was very high in this group of 472 patients, that is, 30%."

Dr. Yoshio Koya, President of the Family Planning Federation of Japan, believes that increased motivation to prevent births, followed by unplanned pregnancy, is the casual link to the observed increase of abortion: "Had there been few people seeking to check childbirths, the practice of induced abortion would not have grown as it did" (in Japan). (*Pioneering in Family Planning*, p. 23.) Later in the same

booklet he states the case more forcefully: "From the increase in induced abortions. . . it would seem that women preferred the consequences of an induced abortion to the alternative of bringing an unwanted child into the world. Can we blame them for that? Absolutely not, because this line of reasoning reflects the results of our educational activity." (p. 84.) He refers to the educational activity of the Planned Parenthood Federation. Much propaganda favoring family planning has made pregnancies, after one or two children are born, unwelcome. But pregnancies occur with disconcerting regularity, despite precautions. Hence the many abortions.

Poor Family Babies

Dr. Kaseki, leading gynecologist in Nagoya, has advised colleagues that they may indeed continue to give guidance against conception, but they should encourage women to bear their children if they conceive. As an experiment he tried to persuade 20 patients, who had presented themselves for abortion, to bear the child and have it adopted. To the last woman, all refused steadfastly. Bearing a child seemed to them a major defeat. The neighbors would gossip. As villagers in one case were overheard to say: "Just look at that house over there; those people are having one baby after they told us so exactly not to do that. What kind of people do they think they are?" Public opinion has become a tyrant, exerting coercion for all practical purposes.

Mothers of more than three children tend to shy away from PTA meetings from a sense of shame, even at our Catholic kindergartens. Sometimes they are advised by other women: "Don't you realize that your children are being ridiculed in school for coming from a too large family? How can you be so inconsiderate?"

An unplanned, unwanted, accidental pregnancy, after tedious efforts to avoid it, appears to be such a psychological burden that it drives women to the abortionist with an almost irresistible compulsion. As Dr. Koya stated to delegates at the All Japan Family Planning Conference in 1958: "... When women who are motivated to limit birth become pregnant accidentally, they cannot be dissuaded from resorting to induced abortion. The only alternative to induced abortion, therefore, is education in successful contraceptive practice. To prohibit abortion by law

would be not to abolish the practice but to drive it into the black market, with all its attendant evils." By reading between the lines, one discovers here that education in family planning, the way it has been done in Japan, induces a mentality which does not hesitate to resort to abortion should contraception fail. Even though contraceptive techniques be improved in the future, the mentality of people brainwashed by family planning propaganda, with the backing of a government, will probably be on the same depressed level.

Does It Work?

Fathers O'Brien and Hanley, needless to say, reject abortion. Fr. Hanley also states that there must be no coercion, direct or indirect, to reduce the number of births. He writes about setting up family-planning clinics which would instruct citizens in the technique of rhythm in South American countries. I have no experience in South America, so will not pass judgment on the last proposal. In the half of the world where I am working, however, I think such rhythm clinics would be a service to a certain percentage of people, and I favor their establishment. However, they would make hardly any difference in national birth rates. The reasons for this seem to escape the two writers.

The reasons why clinics to which people have free access are not sufficient in themselves to reduce national birth rates was explained to us very well at the 1963 Asian Population Conference at New Delhi, by Mr. R.A. Gopalaswami.

"Contraception (by definition) entails the taking of precautions which constitute an unnatural and irksome interference with the spontaneity of conjugal relations. To take such precautions all the time, month after month, and year after year for decades would be felt to be a perpetual nuisance unless one's mind has become conditioned to the practice. Such conditioning seems to occur only in those cases where, for health reasons or social and economic reasons, there is extreme anxiety to avoid another conception. For good or ill, such anxiety does not arise until a certain level of education, income and consequent standard of living is attained. The concern for preservation of that level is not strong enough when the level is low. Even in the absence of such concern, people readily acknowledge that they

would be better off with smaller families. But they do not go further because they seem to feel that the continuing nuisance of contraception is too high a price to pay.

"A certain minimum level of both education and income seems to be a pre-requisite for serious acceptance and regular use of contraceptive appliances as well as the practice of non-appliance methods of contraception. At least three out of four agricultural families and two out of three non-agricultural families in the country must be reckoned as falling below this "income-education bracket" and consequently beyond the reach of conventional methods of contraception. The reasons are not far to seek. These large classes of people are, for one thing, too poor. The mere thought of the purchase of appliances becoming a regular addition to the meagre budget of household expenditures acts as a deterrent. Then the housing conditions are too primitive. There is no privacy. It is difficult to store the appliances where the children would not get at them. Facilities needed for hygienic use of appliances is absent.

"The difficulties are serious. It they are to be overcome the mind must be conditioned to a very strong determination to avoid further childbirth. But here is the greatest difficulty. Such a determination can be evoked, but only spasmodically. Sustained determination is present only among a minority of the "educated non-poor;" and there too after they have acquired a large family."

Sterilization Will Work

Mr. Gopalaswami went on to prove his case by stating that in Japan, where people know all about contraceptive appliances, and there they have attained a relatively high level of education and income, and the living standard is quite advanced, the majority of the success of birth control must be attributed to abortion, "Clearly, because they preferred the occasional and contingent discomfort involved in induced abortion to the continuing nuisance of contraception." He attributes the mass upsurge of abortion in Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland to the same cause. He realizes that contraception will spread among millions in India. "but it is not the answer to the problem of implementing a national child-birth ceiling and achieving the needed reduction of the national

birth rate in time." He recommended mass sterilization at the time: first covering those who already have their 2 or 3 children, then on a permanent basis at the rate of about 2.5 to 3 million sterilizations per year. There should be no statutory compulsion towards this, "but there is need for mobilising public opinion in such a manner as to operate as moral compulsion. An alert public opinion should be created so that any family in which a child birth of the fourth or higher order occurs will feel that it has lost social status in consequence.

In the meantime it is becoming clear that sterilization has relatively little support. Mr. R. P. Goyal reported at the World Population Conference that "surveys carried out to find out the attitude of the people towards sterilization as a family planning method show that this measure has little support." Since attendance at family planning clinics is minimal, and the number of persons currently using contraceptive in India is not even 1%, the prognosis in this area is not favorable. Another survey indicated that abortion is considered by few Indians as a fitting means of population control. "A majority of them thought it was against religion and would affect the health of the mothers adversely."

Economic Development Too

What then is to be done? I believe that the two priests have steered themselves into the treacherous straits with the Scylla of abortion on one side, and the Charybdis of no solution to overpopulation on the other, and have failed to see that there is a way out by going straight ahead. A majority of the delegates from 22 nations at the Asian Population Conference in New Delhi felt that birth control would be of little value in the immediate future for the development of the nations; they felt that social and economic development must precede widespread family planning, and that education could make an asset of the younger population rather than a deficit. They believe that a lowering of the birth rate is bound to come thereafter, when countries have reached a certain level of development. One of the delegates suggested that a raising of the marriage age could be an important factor of lowering the birth rate in the meantime; if the age for women in India were raised to a minimum of 19 years, and no child were born before the mother is 20, the birth rate would decline

from 40 per 1000 population to 24 within 15 to 20 years, he calculated. And we know that a higher marriage age would be conducive to an improvement of family life, not only in India but also in America. Furthermore, for various reasons, economic development would tend to be accelerated by raising of the median marriage age.

When a government diverts resources into a large-scale birth control program, and aims directly at reducing national birth rates, the people easily misunderstand about the means to be used to achieve the end in view. In fact, the government appears in their eyes to give at least tacit approval to every means, provided it is effective. Official laws and policies are a powerful influence in forming or de-forming consciences.

At bi-monthly meetings of the Japan Catholic Population Research Association, one hears again and again that the root of Japan's family problems is the government promotion of family planning. Several times high ranking government officials have blamed America for introducing this policy into Japan. The Association has put out a booklet on family life with recommendations, including this one that the government should ease itself out of the business of promoting family planning:

Since the promotion of birth control for the sake of national economic development violates natural principles, and is the deepest cause of Japan's present family troubles; and since promotion of this policy by a Government agency creates misunders-

tandings and exerts harmful pressures on the population. . . be it resolved that the Ministry of Welfare will disassociate itself from the national population control policy completely.

The Inviting Trap

It is noteworthy that persons of influence in the government have pondered this recommendation with sympathy. One of them succeeded in cutting off a source of government funds for family planning, only to be frustrated when another source was made available. Another has printed a pamphlet to this effect, and is circulating it among his colleagues of the government ruling party.

If the American government imitates the Japanese government by promoting birth control at home and abroad; if it also sets up Dachau-like clinics to dispose of millions of fetuses and dulls the idealism of family life, perhaps it will also imitate Japan twenty years later by bowing itself out of this unworthy business. A wiser America would study Japan's experience today and decide not to blunder into the same simplistic trap.

The Catholic Church and Population Control

A Criticism of Assumptions and Objectives of the Manila Population Seminar

Nagoya, Japan

Is Population Growth Harmful?

The orientation sheets on the East Asian Seminar on Population in the Context of Human Development at Manila on June 18-21, 1973 state certain assumptions and objective which, I believe, are simplistic from the scientific point of view; and disastrous from the viewpoint of pastoral policies, which it hopes to recommend to Bishops. One assumption is that population growth is now a grim threat to human development and should be dealt with by launching or intensifying population control programs. One objective is to remove barriers against cooperation of the Catholic Church with existing population control programs now in operation. It is this assumption, and this objective that I wish to criticise.

To assume that rapid population growth is necessarily an evil situation, one which by itself hinders or renders impossible the development of a national economy and viable social system is not scientifically defensible. Thirty two papers on the subject were presented at the Second World Population Conference in Belgrade in 1965; Dr. Simon Kuznets of Harvard, who later won the Nobel Prize, reviewed these papers and presented his own findings when reporting as Moderator of Meeting A. 10 "On Demographic Aspects of Economic Growth." He said that population growth can help economic growth, or can hinder it, or can be a neutral factor, according to the experience of the past; I think that his observations imply that the competence of governments and the will of the people, more than the given situation, would determine whether population growth is turned to the national advantage or disadvantage; whether a growing people prospers or flounders:

There way, and is, no invariant and significant direct effect of population increase on the rate of rise of per capita product ... At least this is the conclusion for the range of rates of population increase observed in the modern past. In some countries, high rates of population increase were accompanied by high rates of growth in per capita product; in others, low rates

of population growth were associated with low rates of growth of per capita product; and in still others, low rates of population increase were combined with high rates of growth of per capita product. This diversity of relations is found in countries within both the developed and the less developed groups, although the developed group, as a whole, showed a higher rate of population increase than the rest of the world in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries...

Under certain conditions, population increases have an expansive effect on per capita product; under other conditions, such increases have a depressive effect. . . Policy choices may exist, therefore, between those bearing directly on population growth and those bearing directly on sources of growth of product. (*World Population Conference, Vol. I*, pp. 307-9; UNN 1966.)

If these and other findings are not taken into consideration by the Manila Seminar, their declarations of policy cannot merit our confidence. A tradition which dates as far as Confucius holds that good government and population increase are likely bed partners, and that the presence of one probably indicates the presence of the other. A government is competent if it has a large and increasing population, he held. (See *Economic Principles Of Confucius And His School*, Chen Huan-Chang, Columbia University Press, 1911, p. 180). A kaleidoscopic review of history confirms his penetrating judgment. Governments which had the energy, vision, and competence to make the adjustments and changes in social and economic institutions, so that population increases had an expansive effect on the national well-being have spanned the centuries; governments which presided over declining populations were buried by history when more vigorous peoples sacked them. Governments which today institute anti-population measures - which inevitably result in abortion epidemics - are marching towards the graveyard of history.

Growth as a National Asset

It should be easy to understand that a growth of population can become a great national asset. Much of New Guinea's young population, e.g., is now getting an education in schools; sons and daughters of stone-age-culture parents can cultivate fields with tractors; spray insecticides, prepare balanced diets. Per capita productivity will become double, triple, even twenty-fold that of their parents, if their potential is maximized. For several millennia New Guineans died young, were early weakened with diseases, parasites, and malnutrition, and spent much of their time in protecting their lives against enemies. Conceivably, then, the older and less productive sector of the population can be a comparative drag on the new economic effort of the people; whereas the younger sector of the population powers the economy into ever greater productivity. So - the more there are of the younger in comparison to the older, the faster the economy develops. Hence, higher birth rates already foreshadow the higher economic growth indicators.

Something almost similar is now happening in Japan. The population of its cities increased from 25.9 millions in 1947 to 74 millions in 1970; whereas the population of the country-side declined from 52.2 millions in 1947 to 29.9 millions in 1979. The young and able migrate to the great Tokaido Megapolis, which has all the attractions; the elderly stay behind, and experience depression and loneliness. 83% of the cities, towns, and villages lost population during 1960-64; whereas the Tokaido Megapolis had already grown from 40.8 millions in 1960 to 47.3 in 1965, and to 55.5 in 1970; and is projected to have 65% of all Japan's population by 1990. Of course, the giant cities have the best universities, the winning baseball teams, a dozen TV channels, all the best supermarkets and department stores, the national symphony orchestras, the biggest fairs and shows, the swiftest moving trains, the most taxis, the tallest skyscrapers, the roof-top revolving restaurants, the most exciting politics, the most distinguished educators, the newest hospitals and Nobel prize winning professors; and the giant companies find that they can outproduce not only the lowly country-side competitors within Japan; they have run so far ahead of competitors in foreign countries that the strength of the yen has become a national embarrassment. Some of the smaller towns in the country-side are experiencing population implosions; all the better companies and more capable people tend to move away,

leaving the land-owners and aging shop-keepers behind with little hope for the future; some towns have been completely abandoned, and some islands have become totally depopulated. One even sees an active competition to hold or obtain people; some of the Nagoya planners, e.g., have set a target to increase the population of Greater Nagoya from the present 5,000,000 to 15,000,000 or 20,000,000. If they succeed in winning so many people away from other areas to come here, the saying of the ancient sage Confucius may be verified again. He said that is a ruler be of high quality, people from all sides will be attracted to his realm, "bearing their children on their backs," (Chang, *ibid.*, p. 297). Immigration, he said, is a method of conquering foreign peoples peacefully, without recourse to arms.

The Bishop's will find that any statement about duties to limit births because of the need of the national population will have to be hedged in with so many IF's and BUT's that there will be more confusion because of the statement than without it. Should they advise the 67 million people in Japan who live on 1.5% of the land and produce 84% of the industrial goods, to reduce births, and to keep on stealing the young population away from the countryside, where 40,000,000 live on 98.5% of the land? Or should they tell the 40 million to practice birth control; population has already declined in the non-densely-inhabited districts from 140 persons per km² in 1965 to 132 in 1970, and the downward spiral is continuing there. Should Bishops now state policies which would aggravate the trend?

For several millennia, New Guinea supported probably less than 2 or 3 persons per km²; New Guinea has more than twice as much land area as Japan; should the Bishops advise New Guinea, because it is under-developed, to decelerate population growth in order not to depress per capita output (as some theorize)? But advise Japan to forget about birth control because its economy is developed and can support its 107,000,000 people, averaging 290 persons per km²? Should the Bishops attempt to theologize that Japan's 67 million people who live on 5550 km² at an average of 12,000 people per km² have a duty to disperse to the countryside, where 40,000,000 people live with only 110 persons per km²? Prime Minister began his term of office with an idea of this sort; in the meantime hard economic realities have muted the once bold discussion about the plan. Can we be sure that the Bishops know more about these things than does Mr. Tanaka?

Role of Governments

Bishops can and should say that governments have a duty to make provident policies for healthy family life and for the national welfare; but the theology of the Bishops will have to be very well developed before it can give sure guidance about the concrete economic and political policies which are able to bring about the desired results. The Bishops can set the programming of the computer with moral directives, but it will be up to the laymen to feed in the data and to interpret the results. No Bishop can say with certainty to any nation, I believe, that it has an obligation to institute a population control program. There are too many alternative solutions, too many other ways to go about solving connected problems, too many areas where freedom of choice is permitted by the commandments of God, which allow such wide latitude to men and nations.

The Abortion Explosion

Furthermore, in the context of today's INSTANT POPULATION CONTROL programs, which are detonating abortion explosions all over the world, a Bishop might find himself, sadly, in the camp of pro-abortionists from the moment he joins the anti-population clique. He might be excused because of ignorance; but we hope that Bishops will not be ignorant, to the detriment - and death - of the unborn. Dreamers and naive people might still believe that it is possible to launch a national population control policy successfully via mass media, manipulation of public opinion, and economic incentives, with the expectation that no great increase of abortions will follow; but country after country has exploded the dream. The hard fact is that anti-birth policy and abortion is a package purchase; you can't buy one without the other.

To efforts towards raising the marriage age in order to stabilize marriages and improve family life in the context of a modern economy, I say yes. The Bishops are working on this now in some places; it is late in the day; I think that a real effort of the Church is due - rather long overdue - in this area. A windfall from this would be a quite dramatic drop in exposure to conception in the most fertile sector of many populations, with expected drops in birth rates.

Also to the pastoral exercise of helping married persons to adopt the discipline of practicing periodic abstinence successfully, for the sake of improving their family life, we say yes. Shepherds of God's People can work hand in hand with medical people in this area.

But the Church cannot bend like a reed to the winds which now advocate contraception and even abortion. Rather than bend, she must be prepared to be lifted once more to Calvary.

Summary

Nor should the Church be imprudent in a pastoral sense; she cannot advocate birth control programs which are always ending up as abortion epidemics; people who ask her to do that are like thieves, who would try to move stolen goods past the police by mounting them on the ass of an honest person.

Bucharest Notebook

Love for Life — A Pastoral Note*
August 19-30, 1974

Introduction

The main results issuing from the World Population Conference may be divided into three areas: (1) Propaganda for population policies, as well as for development and others. (2) Plans for population control activities. (3) An increase of funds for population activities.

Propaganda

As was to be expected, the standard propaganda line concerning the limitation of the world's resources, the need to decelerate population growth and the adverse effects of rapid population growth upon development came thru strongly. But completely opposite opinion also came thru with great strength. One observable change in the discussions is that, whereas ten years ago the prevailing mood seemed to be that it is not really possible for newly developing nations to successfully develop their economies unless they have previously slowed down the rate of population growth by successful birth control policies; at the present conference the prevailing opinion appears to be that population policies alone do very little to help, unless they are integrated into a wider scheme of socio-economic development. As one delegate expressed it: "The best contraceptive is development." (Delegate from India, address as plenary session, August 20th.)

Appropos is also one of the resolutions adopted by the International Youth Population Conference which was held just before the World Population Conference at Bucharest:

"We recommend that the United Nations discontinue specific aid to family planning programmes in underdeveloped countries and that these programmes should be supported only within the context of broader economic and social development programmes."

We welcome this shift of opinion away from purely demographic policies and towards development policies and hope to take a position of more active leadership, to seize the initiative, and to propose positive programs which are beneficial to family life and to the development of social and economic life everywhere.

Plans For Population Activities

The "Draft World Population Plan of Action" in its initial form sets up a tentative goal for decelerating population growth in the developing countries and in the world by 1985. It states that if governments which have population growth objectives — whether to increase, decrease, or maintain present rates — are successful in achieving their objective, then the annual growth rate of population in the developing countries will decline from the present 2.4% per year to about 2.9% by 1985; and the world growth rate will decline from the present 2.0% to about 1.7% during that time (Par. 15). It also states that those countries which aim to achieve moderate or low rates of population growth should try to achieve low death rates and low birth rates (Par. 17). We view this suggestion with extremely serious concern, because we think that, no matter what is said at the Conference, there will be a multiplication and intensification of many ill-advised family planning programs during the next ten years, emerging somehow from the above mentioned suggestion. This may be seen for example, in the position taken by one of the Delegates at a Plenary Session. We quote at length because it makes the point come out clearly.

We believe the Plan should be the commencement of a serious effort by both developed and developing countries to consider various means of arriving at chosen goals. . . For example, according to the the UN medium projection, the world's population will reach about 6.4 billion by 2000 and over 11 billion by 2050. If, however, delegates agree at this conference and are able to persuade their countries to endeavor to attain the practicable goal of a replacement level of fertility — an average of two children per family — by 2000, the world's population in that year will be approximately 5.9 billion. . . and the world total in 2050 will be about 8.2 billion, rather than in excess of 11 billion. (Delegate from the United States of America, August 20, at Plenary Session.)

The above mentioned delegate then stated that efforts can and should be made to increase funds to achieve such goals. We fully expect that goals will be set up in various countries and funds will be allocated

to achieve them. In fact, Mr. Rafael Salas, who is Executive Director of the UN Fund for Population Activities, reported to the Plenary Session on August 20th, that \$500,000,000 will be needed during 1974-77 to finance the projects to be funded, including the increased demand which will be likely as a result of agreement on the World Plan of Action. In effect, this will mean that thousands of people, during the coming decade, will be making their living chiefly by promoting contraception and related methods of birth control. We foresee a number of serious problems arising from this situation.

The Abortion Problem

It is well known that the practice of killing the unborn has suddenly and dramatically increased in many countries in which governments or private agencies have promoted contraception on a large scale. It appears that when higher authorities promote birth control, then many people do not distinguish carefully between the various means employed to achieve the end, whether self-control, contraception, sterilization, or abortion. In many, many countries abortion has become a very serious problem; an estimate of 50,000,000 abortions per year is now being aired. It has terrible consequences, not only on the health of women, on the fatal end of the unborn, but it also cauterizes consciences, destroys a sense of pride in personal integrity, blasts moral idealism, induces people to be skeptical about God and goodness, and tends to spread illicit unions. It is probably a major cause of religious luke-warmness and of lack of progress in the evangelization of people in developing countries.

Hostility Towards Children

It appears that intense propaganda to restrict births tends to overflow so that people sometimes become indifferent towards children who are already born. Notorious, for example, is the fact that infants are found in baggage lockers of railway stations in Japan in increasing numbers, which is a convenient method of mothers to dispose of their children. Similarly, there is an increasing amount of retardation in the development of many children which can be ascribed to lack of sufficient interest and love from their parents. In an intense anti-birth situation, mothers do not take the necessary pride in loving their children and remaining at home to do so, rather than taking outside employment.

Uncertainty About Responsibilities

At the Bucharest Conference a number of speakers are making a point of a supposed obligation to refrain from bearing children as a contribution to the common good; that is, parents should feel the obligation not to bear children lest they over-populate the nation and the world; and nations should undertake birth control programs out of consideration of global needs and the welfare of all mankind. We do not support this, of course, but we have become painfully aware that many, including some Catholics, even at this conference, assent to this theory. We fear that many families may be influenced by this theory, may even feel qualms of conscience about bearing more than two or three children, or may conclude that they are permitted to employ illicit methods of birth control in order to achieve a so-called good end. This is a pastoral problem. Clearly we need to restore confidence to parents who may now be confused and hesitant.

Disrepute of Large Families

For reasons mentioned above, and because pressures of public opinion and newly formed socio-economic patterns in many countries, the large family has fallen into great disrepute. For a number of years now, the Church has been rather silent about this point, no longer stating serenely and truly the great advantages to children and to parents of a numerous and well-educated family. Sometimes parents of such families feel isolated from their neighbors, and rejected by their nation, so much that they fall into a state of psychological inferiority sentiments and hopelessness; it is known that some parents even decide to make an end of it all by killing all the children and then themselves. Would it not be helpful if we show our high regard for large families, those sources of many vocations and saints, by public words of encouragement, and perhaps by special attention to this point in the Sacred Liturgy. If large families would find a welcome at least among their fellow believers, and if a ghetto spirit of welcome to large families would become a strong characteristic of the Pro-life community, then such families could more easily face with equanimity the hostile world in which they find themselves.

In this connection, it was interesting to note that a member of the Romanian nationality intervened at one point in the discussions here, to state that his government now gives special help for and recogni-

tion to large families. A family living next door to him has 12 children, and is happy with a large house and various benefits.

One of the papers presented at Bucharest showed evidence that natural family planning enjoys high acceptability among groups in India where it is being used, being in conformity with their sensibilities and even customs of self-restraint. The author concludes

The contemporary popularity of the pharmaceutical approach of the solution of human problems should not obscure the realization that periodical abstinence may lend itself easily and inexpensively to conception control; that it can be applied on a mass scale, here and now; and that its mode is appropriate to the sensibilities of other countries and cultures. (Dr. Herbert Ratner, USA, in paper "Rhythm: Population Regulation").

Sex Education

Even now some government sponsored birth control programs include explicit instructions on contraception to be given in schools; we fear that such ill-considered sex-instructions will multiply and intensify with the increased funding of family planning programs. We feel that this should become a problem of special pastoral care and concern.

Health and Welfare Programs

There is a great tendency to link up family planning programs with government health and welfare programs. As a consequence the promoters of contraception use a captive and dependent audience to impose their program; pregnant mothers who come for consultation inevitably are greeted by a family planner; mothers who bear children in hospitals are visited by those who advise insertion of an Intra-uterine device, or the pill, or sterilization. Welfare recipients are given advice on contraception by the same persons who give them economic relief. We need to assist and intervene to minimize such abuses.

Age at Marriage

The "Draft World Population Plan of Action" recommends that, in order to promote the well-being of the family and its members, laws concerning age at marriage, among others, should be reviewed periodically (37b); incredibly, the Draft explains the meaning earlier when it appears to suggest that it is

appropriate to aim for "The establishment of an appropriate lower limit for age at marriage" (30f). We are of the opinion that it is more in harmony with the welfare of families that various measures be taken to raise the average age at marriage in many nations; in the developing nations where the rural subsistence patterns of life are yielding to the monthly wage system and where the extended family is giving way to the nuclear and separated family; but also in some of the developed nations where divorce is associated with too young an age at marriage. One side effect of a more suitable age at marriage would be a shorter span of years of exposure to pregnancy, and perhaps a lower birth rate.

Generous Parenthood

The observation was made that when the word "responsible parenthood" is used, even by the Church, the implied meaning is parenthood with only a few births; if it is true, as seems to be the case, that custom has given this implication to use of the term, then perhaps we will find it opportune to refrain from further use of the phrase and to employ another instead. (Editor's note: perhaps the term Generous Parenthood as opposed to Sangerite or Planned Parenthood.)

A Personal Note

I thank the Coalition and Mrs. Engel who jarred me loose from my inactivity in regard to population, by packing me off to Bucharest where I could meet all those nice members of the Coalition.

From Bucharest, my old friend Father Marx worked his way to Japan to do some energetic bulldozing on the abortion iceberg, and to promote natural family planning. . . I am quite enthusiastic.. . you obviously have started something good here in Japan.

Looking back — the best of it all was the way we all functioned so well as a team at the Conference-Tribune. The Coalition picked good people. I wish to thank you for the sparkling telegram (wired to all Coalition Team members at their homes following the Conference) about "Mission Impossible Accomplished!" We didn't do all that much, but others did, and the Ante-Bucharest Age should be coming to an end now, with the Post-Bucharest Age taking over.

The Best of Zimmerman

**Rev. Anthony Zimmerman
Biography**

Rev. Anthony Zimmerman, S.V.D. was member of the U. S. Coalition for Life Team to the U.N. World Population Conference - Tribune in Bucharest, Rumania in August 1974.

A demographer, lecturer and author of numerous publications and books including "Japan's 22nd Year Experience with a Liberal Abortion Law" and "How to Get 6,000 Abortions a Day". He is a member fo the Japan Demographer's Association and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Born in Westphalia, Iowa, the fourth of ten children, Father Zimmerman has provided much of the inspiration and the philosophical base upon which the U.S. Coalition for Life was created in September of 1972.



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