

Population Increases, Cut In Death Rates May Build Huge Problem In Readjustment

GENEVA.—(AP)—The spectacular reduction in death rates in the last two years and the steady increase of population in many parts of the world may lead to a stupendous problem in social and economic readjustment, some sociologists of the United Nations believe.

The World Health Organization reported recently that the area of the world in which deaths are recorded is "enjoying the lowest mortality ever recorded." While this reduction is most pronounced in Europe, a similar reduction was recorded in India, Ceylon and Japan. Although the rate remains comparatively high in Egypt, there has been a reduction there too.

The United Nations Population Commission has given "first priority" to a study of the interrelationship of economic, social and population changes. Officials here say this is a "major scientific study." The Commission will seek to discover the conditions under which populations grow faster than the economic resources of the area involved. They want to know also what steps can be

taken to keep population growth within bounds. A study already is under way in India where the population increased by 50,000,000 persons between 1830 and 1940.

The Population Commission, although well aware that its study will take years, hopes to obtain information which will help improve the welfare of the world's people. The secretariat of the Commission is engaged in a survey of all available literature and statistics on the subject from which it will soon prepare a summary for the Commission.

Continual Change Noted
One official, in trying to put the problem of the Commission in lay terms, said it was to discover "how economic and social policies may be used to influence population changes so as to avoid unfortunate results." The ideal, proportional relationship between population and economic resources, is "such an abstraction it has no meaning," this official said.

"If everything were static, then we could determine what should be the proper number of people to be provided with the best possi-



TOP MAN FOR THE ARMY—Gordon Gray (left), Winston Salem, N. C., who was an infantry private seven years ago, re-enacts his swearing in as Secretary of the Army. Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson (right) administered the oath. Present for the ceremony in Washington, Gray's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Bernard (center, rear), his two sons, Boyden, 6, and Burton, 8, and Mrs. Gray. Pictures of the actual ceremony were not permitted. (AP Wirephoto).

ble living conditions," he said. "But that is unrealistic." A paper submitted to the Commission says "the entire make-up of society is in a state of continual change. The economic,

demographic and social structure rarely remains constant. Changes in any one of its components are accompanied by changes in the others."

The Population Commission is

seeking the key to a better living for the people of the world in the exact working of these components and their effect on each other. The experts point to Java as an illustration of the problem.

Anti-Poll Tax Proposal Given Committee's O. K.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—(AP)—The House Administration Committee Wednesday approved anti-poll tax legislation.

The bill would make it unlawful for states to require payment of a poll tax before an otherwise qualified voter could vote in primary or general elections for federal officers.

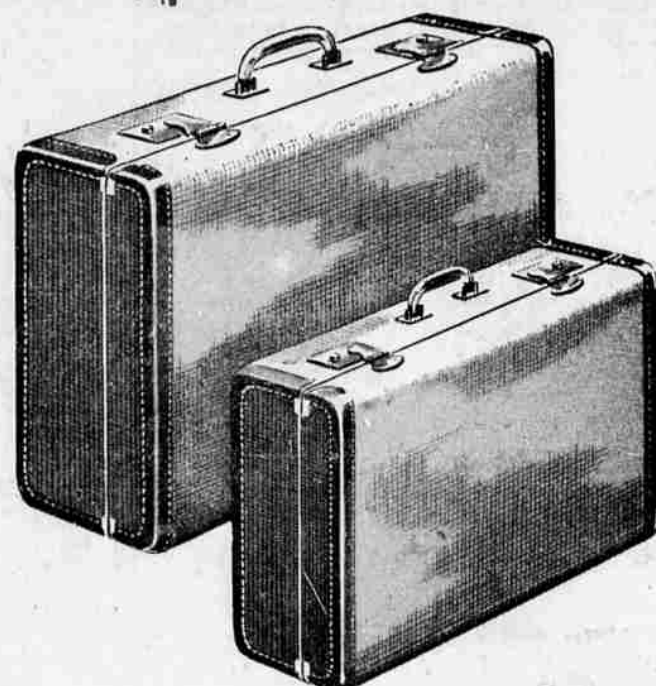
It is a part of President Truman's civil rights program.

The Dutch have been in Java for a century. They have been raising the conditions of living, improving agricultural methods and modernizing the country. But the population has increased enormously, perhaps as a result of these improvements, and it is regarded as debatable whether the people are better off than they were before.

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