

'Why Should They Breed... for the State?' Births Show Steady Decline In East Europe Countries

By RICHARD O'REGAN
Of the Associated Press
PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia — Why bother to have children? Many young couples in Communist East Europe feel this way today.

Communist newspapers report a steadily declining birthrate. Legal abortions are increasing. Women pushing baby buggies are a rare sight in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

The abortions run into hundreds of thousands a year. In some cities, like Prague and Budapest, more young mothers legally end their pregnancies than have babies. Why?

A Western sociologist explained: First, housing is drastically short. Young couples frequently have to share apartments. One-family houses in which to raise families just aren't built for young couples under communism.

Second, women have to work to help their husbands earn enough to feed and clothe themselves. If there's money over, the couples often want to spend it on themselves. Beside, abortion is easy in state clinics.

Early indoctrination Third, where there are children, the Communist state takes them away early for Communist indoctrination.

"Why should young couples go to the expense of hearing and caring for children if they hardly ever see them and can't give them any love?" the sociologist asked. "Besides in some countries, like Bulgaria, the Communists are teaching the children to behave like robots."

In the old days of communism under Stalin, big families were encouraged. Mothers with many children were feted as Socialist heroines. Abortion was forbidden. Illegal abortions, however, were frequent and a trend to overpopulation created discontent and shortages.

The pendulum now has swung in the other direction. In 1955 and 1956, communism found that women who did not want children would find ways to prevent them. So birth control centers were opened, contraceptive sold and abortion allowed for women.

Abortions Increase The effect of this policy has been a great upsurge in abortions.

Czechoslovak newspapers report there were 217,000 births in 1960 and 100,000 abortions. In Prague, there were 114.6 abortions for every 100 births. Now the papers complain the birth rate "keeps decreasing."

In Hungary, it is the same. The birth rate has been going down steadily and is the lowest of all Communist countries with 14.6 babies for every 1,000 persons.

In Bulgaria, Romania and Poland there also have been big increases in abortions. But only the Polish Communists are apparently happy that every tenth Polish woman terminates pregnancy. Poland's birth rate is still high and the Warsaw regime is concerned there may not be enough jobs.

The other Soviet satellites are concerned. The Czech newspa-

per Rude Pravo wrote that the declining birth rate "is becoming a serious problem affecting the life and future of our country."

A Hungarian reporter wrote: "All agriculture feels the evil effects of the lack of a young generation."

The Communist principle is to get to the children young—in the formative years from 1 to 6. Because women work, they are forced to leave their children in the care of state-run nurseries.

In Bulgaria, the plan is that

every child under 6 will be in a nursery 12 hours a day, six days a week by 1970. A Western educator says some of the methods in Bulgaria resemble Pavlov's means of training dogs to react in a conditioned way to orders.

"It is no wonder," said the sociologist, "that young people don't want children. They know they can't give their children love and tenderness. People who do have children often find that the Communists teach them to be disloyal to their parents. Why should they simply breed children for the state?"

Chick Production Down in Oregon

PORTLAND (AP)—The number of chickens raised in Oregon this year is down three per cent from last year while the calf crop is up nine per cent from 1960.

The Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service said an estimated 2,955,000 birds were raised compared to 3,046,000 for 1961.

In the same line, hatcherymen in Oregon placed 202,000 chicks on the market for commercial broiler and fryer production during the week ending July 21.

Oregon's 1962 calf crop is estimated at 631,000 head compared to 581,000 in 1960.

Hearing Ends on Mining Claims

A four-day hearing on several controversial mining patent applications ended Friday afternoon in the Lane County courthouse.

During the four days, ore samples, charts, maps and geological information were presented.

At stake was the validity of a group of mining claims in the Bohemia District. The estate of the late Fred J. Bartels of Cottage Grove, and others, are trying to patent claims, most of which are in the so-called Champion group of claims.

The claims have been involved in lengthy legal actions since

1953, with the U.S. government challenging the applications for patent. (A patented mine means the holder of the patent has complete ownership.)

Rudolph M. Steiner, an examiner for the Bureau of Land Management from Sacramento, Calif., conducted the hearings.

At issue between the Bartels estate and the government is whether there is sufficient mineral value in the 13 claims to justify the patents.

The rule for granting patents is that there must be enough evidence of mineral that a "prudent operator would be justified in investing money

with a reasonable expectation of having a profitable enterprise."

This phrase, from federal mining law, puts the burden of proof on the applicant and this was the subject discussed during most of the hearing.

Steiner gave attorneys from both sides a 30-day period in which to file further information.

Steiner has the authority to grant patents for any, all or none of the 13 applications. His decision can be appealed through the Bureau of Land Management chain of command and finally to the courts.

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