

# Population Growth in United States Already 33 Years Ahead of Schedule

Editor's note: Extremely rapid population growth poses major economic problems for the United States, and even more ominous problems for less wealthy areas of the world. The situation is explored in a series of three articles by Louis Casseles, United Press correspondent. The first article tells how population growth will affect the United States in the next 30 years, the second deals with the problem in under-developed countries, and the third deals with the worldwide search for new methods of birth control.

**By LOUIS CASSELES**  
United Press Correspondent  
Washington—(U.P.)—The population of the United States is growing much faster than experts expected. It already has passed the "peak" it was supposed to reach in 1950.

The present rate of population increase—1.7 per cent a year—is more than double that of the 1930s. If it keeps up America will have more than 228 million persons to feed, clothe, house, educate, employ and transport by 1975.

These facts now are receiving earnest attention at the highest levels of government and business. They have, in the words of Dr. Joseph S. Davis of President Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisers, "profound significance" for the future of the nation and for each individual who will be hunting a job, going to college, buying a home or building a factory in the next 20 years.

**Some Results Obvious**  
Some results of the baby boom which has been underway since World War II already are obvious, in overcrowded elementary schools and mushrooming suburban housing developments. But other important implications of the rapid population growth "are not yet widely appreciated," Davis said in an interview.

Davis, a former professor at Stanford University, is widely known among scholars as a specialist in population trends and their economic impact. He has been a member of the President's three-man Council of Economic Advisers since 1955.

Until a few years ago, Davis said, virtually all authorities thought that the United States had reached the end of its long period of population expansion, and that the latter half of this century would bring a stationary or declining population.

The wartime jump in birth rates was regarded as purely temporary. As late as 1946, the Census Bureau forecast that the U.S. population would be 153 million in 1960 and would reach an ultimate peak of 144.5 million about 1990.

**Baby Boom Continues**  
But the baby boom continued—and still shows no sign of a let-down. The population shot past the 164.5 million mark in 1955, 35 years ahead of schedule. It now is just over 170 million. By 1960, it is expected to reach 180 million. Barring a catastrophe, such as atomic war, it will pass 200 million before 1970, and will continue to climb with no peak in sight.

Without making any attempt to guess future birth rates, Davis pointed out some of the ways in which U.S. life will be affected simply by the growing up of babies already born:—There will be a sharp increase in consumer demand starting in a few years, as postwar children reach their teens. Teenagers eat more, they spend more for clothes and entertainment. They buy used cars, cigarettes,

record-players and sports equipment. This increased demand will be a stimulus to economic expansion.

—The number of boys and girls reaching their 18th birthday—the traditional age for going to college or starting to work—will climb rapidly in the 1960s. Competition for jobs, especially the kind of jobs that offer a good beginning for a career, is likely to be intense. Getting into college may be even harder than finding a job. Population projections indicate that U.S. colleges will have to double their capacity in the next 15 years if they are to handle the tidal wave of applicants approaching their doors.

—The median age for marriage now is slightly over 20. As successive waves of postwar children arrive at this threshold age, there will be a big jump in the annual rate of "household formations." This is an economist's term for newly-married couples who enter the market for homes, furniture and appliances. More household for-

mations means a rise in demand for housing and durable goods.

**Serious Threat**  
Some economists, such as Prof. Joseph J. Spengler of Duke University, believe that rapid population growth poses a serious long-range threat to U.S. prosperity. They foresee growing shortage of natural resources, rising costs of production as the pressure of demand forces industry to tap sub-marginal sources of raw materials, and a general downward slide in living standards.

Davis does not share this pessimistic outlook. He believes that America's long-range increase in productivity, which has been averaging 3.5 per cent a year, or about double the rate of population growth, can continue to raise living standards. He is also confident that scientific and technological advances will open up new sources of raw materials, as in the past.

"The economic problems of enlarging material resources to meet strong demands are the sort that Americans delight to solve," he said.

**Stimulus to Business**  
He noted that a growing population acts as a stimulus to business: There is more incentive to invest in plant expansion if you know the future market will be larger. And the fact that the number of consumers is growing tends to bail out, in the long run, those industries which expand too rapidly through miscalculation of current demand. Thus a growing population can serve as insulation against serious depressions.

But Davis said population growth is no automatic guarantee against short-run "adjustments" in the economy, some of which could be painful. No one can say with certainty, for example, that the expansion of consumer demand which lies ahead fast enough to avoid the possibility of considerable unemployment at some point in the expansion of the labor force.

Feeding the increased population, Davis said, will be "the least of our worries." U.S. agriculture, which keeps piling up

surpluses despite stringent government controls on planting, is capable of enormous expansion of output. Some "adjustments

in diet"—such as eating more fish and less beef, may be necessary. But there is no real danger of a food shortage in this

country in the foreseeable future. Elsewhere in the world, it's a different story.

Next: Population "explosion" threatens disaster for some underdeveloped nations.

## They'll Do It Every Time



## The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

**Karen L.**—My sister doesn't know how to handle her husband.

**June S.**—I want him to know I have confidence in him.

**Karen L.**—My younger sister and I are both in our mid-20s, and married. We have always been very close and we were very unhappy when June and her husband had to move quite far away. We promised to write regularly and tell all the little details of our lives.

Well, we weren't away six months when June's letter started getting shorter and less regular. She said she and her husband and baby were fine and that was that. I began to worry and decided to pay them a surprise visit.

June almost collapsed when she saw me. I discovered that half of the little she had told me was untrue. Her husband is shiftless and lazy and drinks too much and she lives in a terrible apartment in a poor section of town. She hasn't a decent dress to put on. I feel she ought to leave her husband, or at least come back to our home town so I can keep an eye on her and that husband of hers. She doesn't seem to know how to handle him. Just the same, she wants to stay where she is and keep her "pride" as she calls it.

**June S.**—I know I'm a great disappointment to Karen and my parents, but I don't want to be a drag on them as well. I know my husband and I'm afraid he'll come to depend on them for jobs or money.

I don't want to leave Roy because, in spite of everything, I do love him. I feel he has had some bad breaks here and eventually he will change. I want him to know I have confidence in him. In spite of what anyone else may think, he is not really shiftless and lazy. He is just easily discouraged and tends to drink too much when he has problems.

I didn't want Karen to see the way we were living and I don't want the folks back home to know. Karen seems to think I ought to be stricter and tougher with my husband, and she would supervise me on every step, the way she always has. Maybe I'm just a failure as a wife, but I can't see what good will come of nagging and carrying on the way Karen thinks I should. Pride has a lot to do with it, but it's not the only reason why I want to stay where we are.

The Council: June should be less humble in her attitude toward Karen. Her sister had no right to spring a surprise visit or to tell her to leave her husband and tell her how to man-

age him.

"I know I'm a great disappointment to Karen and my parents," declares June with a guilty air. But she has nothing to feel guilty or ashamed about. She is trying to understand the man she loves and to make a home with him. She has absolutely no reason to consider herself "a failure as a wife." She shows that she has a lot of intelligence and courage, and there is every reason to believe she'll make a success of her marriage.

June may need help with her husband's drinking problem, but she doesn't need Karen's kind of help. She might suggest that her husband join AA or see a physician or family counseling agency. June is right to stick by her pride, her confidence and her privacy, and Karen should withdraw from her sister's personal affairs.

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## 45 Measles Cases Reported in Medford

Medford had 45 cases of measles during the week ending March 29, Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician, reported today.

Ashland had one case of measles, Central Point seven and Phoenix one.

Other communicable diseases reported for the week included pneumonia, Medford two; chicken pox, Medford 15; Ashland eight, Central Point one, and Eagle Point one; strep throat, Medford one; rheumatic fever, Eagle Point one; ring worm of scalp, Ashland two, Medford one; influenza, Medford, three; Rouge River three and Eagle Point one; impetigo, Jacksonville one; infectious mononucleosis, Medford three; mumps, Central Point one; scarlet fever, Central Point one; and infectious hepatitis, Sams Valley one.

## Tree Tax Study Groups Holds Meet

The Orchard Tree Tax study group met Friday afternoon for another in a series of meetings to study a system for the appraising of orchard trees.

Several local orchardists attended the meeting and heard a discussion on findings by the study group.

The study group, which works in cooperation with the state tax commission and the board of equalization, holds meetings to discuss their findings with interested persons in the area.

## Senate Confirms Zwicker Promotion Over Objections

Washington—(U.P.)—The Senate has confirmed the promotion of Brig. Gen. Ralph W. Zwicker over objections of his old foe, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.).

The roll call vote was 70 to 2. Only McCarthy and Sen. George W. Malone (R-Nev.) voted against the general's promotion.

McCarthy charged that Zwicker was "guilty of perjury" before a Senate subcommittee.

He told the Senate that "the White House and the Pentagon brought tremendous pressure to bear" on members of the Armed Services Committee to approve Zwicker's promotion to temporary major general and permanent brigadier general.

McCarthy's challenge of the Armed Services Committee was taken up immediately by Chairman Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.). He told McCarthy:

"I concluded there was not sufficient substance in the matter to warrant the charge of perjury. There was not any evidence in this record that would stand in a court of law for two minutes."

**Urged To Reject Promotion**  
McCarthy urged the Senate to reject the promotion of the Wisconsin-born general, whose 1954 clash with McCarthy helped bring on the sensational Army-McCarthy hearings.

McCarthy charged that Zwicker "prejudged himself before a congressional committee" in 1955 when it was questioning the general about his role in the promotion and honorable discharge of former Maj. Irving Peress, an Army dentist accused by McCarthy of being a Communist.



SCORNING a film role which would make her appear bald, as above, Zsa Zsa Gabor turned down a Hollywood offer. (International)

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