

Population Gains Said Wiping Out Economic Accomplishments

Editor's note: Following is the second in a series of three articles on the growing world population.

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent
Washington — (U.P.) — World population is growing at the "fastest rate in history."

The population "explosion" already has wiped out many of the economic gains painfully achieved in underdeveloped countries since World War II. If it continues, many scientists believe that the specter of mass starvation soon will begin to stalk large areas of the earth.

"The speed-up in world population growth since 1945 is one of the most ominous developments of our time," said Robert C. Cook, director of the Population Reference Bureau. "It jeopardizes the welfare of millions of people. It is as great a threat to mankind as the atomic bomb."

Cook said in an interview that "the human race has less time than some people think" to cut the fuse of the "population bomb."

"If present trends continue for 10 more years, some areas of the world will face disaster," he said.

Not all experts agree with Cook about the imminence of the over-population danger. Some believe that development of new food resources could prevent widespread famine even if the world's population doubled. At the present rate of increase, it will do just that in less than half a century.

But there is general agreement among authorities that uncontrolled human fertility is a luxury which the world cannot much longer afford, particularly in the vast areas of Asia and Africa where two-thirds of the people already suffer from chronic hunger.

The sharp jump in population growth which now is causing alarm in world capitals is, ironically, a by-product of the post-war effort to raise living standards in underdeveloped areas.

It did not result from an increase in birth rates, which have tended to remain stable or decline slowly in most countries, but from a precipitate drop in the death rate as modern techniques of sanitation and medical care were introduced.

Ceylon is a classic example of what is happening. Comparatively simple and inexpensive public health measures, such as DDT spraying to control malaria, have cut Ceylon's death rate virtually in half in the past 10 years. But the birth rate has remained at the traditional high level.

Result: Ceylon's population, after centuries of comparative stability, is shooting upwards at the rate of three per cent a year. This means that Ceylon, which already has 300 people per square mile, will double in population by 1980.

Egypt, Pakistan, Mexico, Brazil and British Guiana have been growing in population at a comparative rate.

"Some of the most populous nations of Asia are now trying to achieve the same kind of reduction in death rate that took place in Ceylon," Cook said. "If all of Asia should begin to multiply at the same rate as Ceylon, the population of that one continent would grow to nearly five billions in 30 years."

Expanding Rapidly
The present population of the Earth is about 2.7 billion. It has been increasing since World War II at an average rate of 1.5 per cent a year. This is approximately double the rate of increase which prevailed during the preceding century.

"This rate of growth means that the world has 100,000 new mouths to feed each time the sun rises," said Cook. "And most of them are in the countries least able to take on the added burden."

"In Asia, although total food production has increased considerably, the actual food intake per capita is less today than it was before the war."

If underdeveloped countries are industrialized, won't their birth rates tend to drop as their living standards rise?

"This is the standard answer of those who think the population problem will go away if we just ignore it," Cook said. "But it overlooks the time element. It took over a century for this transition to take place in most of the Western countries. During that transition, the population of some countries doubled, that of others tripled. In many underdeveloped countries today, population is already so dense that a doubling or tripling would certainly outrun any conceivable increases in agricultural or industrial production."

Possible Migration
Could the problem be solved by a mass migration of people from over-crowded nations to sparsely settled regions of the world?

Cook replied by citing a 1954 United Nations study which said: "There are no longer any great 'new worlds' with vast areas of good farmland to be had for the labor of clearing and plowing it. Some lands are still available to immigrants in certain parts of the world—South America and Australia for example—but they are generally less productive and more costly to develop."

Moreover, the UN study pointed out, most of the countries which have spare land (including the United States) have slammed the door on mass immigration from Asia or Africa.

"There is no use looking for bogus solutions," said Cook. "The problem is people having babies. Unless human sex mores can be changed quickly, too-rapid population growth will grow up and bring ever-growing misery."

Next: The search for new birth control methods.

Lawrence, Kan. — (U.P.) — Scientists may soon come up with a plan much like putting a lid on a bottle to aid the nation's drought-stricken regions by cutting evaporation of water.

The plan, called the monomolecular film method, involves the use of a compound that will spread out over the surface of a lake, reservoir or pond somewhat as oil covers the surface of puddles of water on a street.

Since most arid regions lose more water annually through evaporation than is used for agriculture, irrigation, industry and in cities, the experts predict a great new water source when the process is perfected.

Dr. Buell W. Beadle of the department of chemistry and chemical engineering at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Tex., said the efficiency of the film on large lakes is unknown. Experiments on large bodies of water are planned later this year.

Beadle demonstrated the theory of the plan at a University of Kansas engineering conference.

The compound used to spread over the water is hexadecanol, which is floated on a lake in a raft cage. The compound remains at a thickness of only one molecule but with the molecules so tightly packed together that evaporation is greatly reduced.

Such compounds would be odorless, tasteless and harmless. The film spreads out from the solid material and stops when the surface is covered. Any break in the film caused by boats, fish, swimmers or even rain is covered immediately by more film generated from material in the raft.

Dr. Beadle said the first to benefit would be farmers and ranchers with small stock ponds and cities with small reservoirs. Experiments have shown the film reduces evaporation by as much as 45 to 60 per cent.

Dr. Beadle said there remain problems to be solved before the film is practical. One is caused by bacteria in the water which tend to attack and destroy the film.



SNUGGLING THEIR SON are George and Nabejda Kozmin, centers of an international custody struggle for their fourth child, Peter, 7½ months old, at Lake Villa, Ill. They want to return to their native Russia. Peter was born here. They were married in a displaced persons camp, where their other three sons were born. (International)

PROSPECT Slides On Europe Shown

GENIEL SPRUILL
Prospect — Clarence Neville, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Neville, who returned from Europe several months ago, visited at the Prospect school last Monday and showed the students of the seventh grade his collection of colored pictures. He also related various facts concerning European countries.

Artie Holmes has returned home from California where he was called due to the illness of his mother. He reports that she is feeling better. He was accompanied by his little niece Gloria Holms of Rio Vista.

A. P. Spruill, of Seattle, Wash., spent the past week visiting in Prospect at the home of his brother.

Mrs. Deloy Gillespie underwent surgery, Wednesday 27 at the Canyonville hospital. She is now convalescing at her home.

Miss Wanda Moore has been absent from school for several days with poison oak. Also at home was her brother Larie who has tonsillitis.

Recent house guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gillespie were Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Mathern and daughter Karen, and Mr. and Mrs. George Large and children Durwin, Ralph, Cassie, and Sherry.

John Hull returned to his home Wednesday after spending the past four months at Willington, Calif.

Archie McKillop and Clarence and Mary Lue Neville traveled to the skiing resort, Hado, near Bend, Ore. last weekend.

It was reported that Gene Williams who was injured several days ago had not received a broken nose as it was first reported.

Masked Woman Signs Hollywood Contract

Hollywood — (U.P.) — A masked woman signed a contract today with Columbia Pictures. Her identity will never be disclosed.

Producer Bryan Foy will make a film, "I Broke a Dope Ring," based on her undercover work with a narcotics ring for the Orange county, Calif., sheriff's office. The woman was accepted as a member of a ring, and brought about conviction of more than 20 persons.

London Labor Leaders Call Off Big Strike

London — (U.P.) — Labor leaders have decided to call off a strike of 1,700,000 shipbuilding and engineering workers pending the result of a court of inquiry into wage increase demands.

A mass conference of executive representatives of 40 labor unions involved in the dispute decided to order their men back to work on Thursday, one day after the three-man court of inquiry starts its study.

Portland — (U.P.) — The first day of a campaign to inoculate some 40,000 Portland school children against polio saw 2655 students at Benson and Lincoln high schools receive Salk vaccine Monday.



The United States National Bank OF PORTLAND

RESOURCES

Cash on Hand and Due from Banks	\$ 146,168,428.14
United States Government Bonds	250,185,391.67
Municipal and Other Bonds	68,737,542.15
Loans and Discounts—Net	330,154,438.89
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	1,200,000.00
Bank Premises (Including Branches)	12,168,499.94
Customers' Liability on Acceptances	85,074.00
Interest Earned	3,545,450.01
Other Resources	293,671.41
Total	\$ 812,538,496.21

LIABILITIES

Capital	\$ 20,000,000.00
Surplus	20,000,000.00
Undivided Profits	20,827,056.50
Total	60,827,056.50
Reserves for Interest, Taxes, etc.	6,534,542.60
Acceptances	85,074.00
Dividends Declared	1,300,000.00
Deposits	733,818,188.41
Interest Collected Not Earned	4,199,253.24
Other Liabilities	5,774,381.46
Total	\$ 812,538,496.21

This statement includes 62 branches in Oregon
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