

World Population To Be Double Present Figure by Century's End

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Washington

In the five minutes you spend reading this dispatch, the population of the world will grow by about 450 persons.

It has increased by 120,000 since you read Thursday's newspaper.

By this time next year, there will be 43 millions more human beings on earth than there are right now.

By the end of the present century, at the present rate of increase, the population of the world will be 5,400,000,000 people—double the present figure.

Authority for these statements is the United Nations demographic yearbook, an annual compilation of population statistics from all parts of the world.

The new edition discloses that the postwar population explosion is still in full swing, particularly in underdeveloped countries. The introduction of modern health measures in these countries has caused death rates to drop sharply, but birth rates generally remain at traditional high levels. The result is that world population is growing at the fastest rate in history, approximately 1.7 per cent a year. The rate was 1.2 per cent only four years ago. Prior to World War II, it never exceeded 1 per cent.

The most rapid increases are taking place in underdeveloped areas which are least able to feed additional mouths. Latin America leads the world with an annual population growth of 4.4 per cent. Africa and Southwest Asia are close behind with 4 per cent, according to the U.N. survey.

Both the United States and Russia are growing at a rate of 1.7 per cent—the world average. The unprecedented speed at which the human race is multiplying has alarmed many population experts. Robert C. Cook, director of the Population Reference Bureau, calls it "one of the most ominous developments of our time... as great a threat to mankind as the atomic bomb."

Dr. J. O. Hertzler, professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska, asserts in his new book, "The Crisis in World Population," that "horrendous problems lie ahead 'unless fairly direct and expeditious action is taken soon.'"

The Nebraska professor says science may be able to increase the world's food supply "greatly" in the future by increasing the yield of farm lands, by developing artificial foods, through "hydroponic" techniques in which edible foods are grown in solutions of chemicals and water, by using food resources from the sea. But he warns that "much of this is still a hope and not a promise."

"Though there may be phenomenal increases of food for a while, this supply cannot be increased at the same rate and with the same ease forever. The

earth is finite and none of its resources are indefinitely extendable to use without eventually greater difficulty and expense."

No Safety Valve

Migration, the "safety valve" for overpopulated countries in earlier generations, is now "impracticable as even a partial solution of population pressure" because most of the good farmlands of the earth are already being "intensively utilized."

Hertzler warns that nature will intervene "in a characteristically ruthless manner" to halt population growth through famine, disease or other catastrophes unless human beings act soon to "bring about some limitation" of their own fertility.

He then expounds a view that brings him into direct conflict with the Roman Catholic Church and other religious groups which oppose "artificial" birth control.

"Fertility limitation by contraception is the only acceptable means of reducing the rate of population increase."

To those who hold that contraception is immoral, Hertzler replies that overpopulated countries, threatened with starvation, always resort to some form of birth control. If it isn't contraception, he says, it will be such "frightful acts of desperation" as abortion, sterilization and deliberate killing of newborn babies.

"The situation seems to resolve itself into a choice between contraception and some kind of murder," he concludes.

Knight To Seek U. S. Senate Seat

Sacramento, Calif. — Gov. Goodwin J. Knight has decided to run for the U. S. Senate instead of a second term for governor, according to five leading California newspapers.

All five newspapers pegged their report of Knight's decision on "Washington sources" or "close friends" in Los Angeles. Knight could not be reached for comment. He is recovering from the flu at an out of state resort.

Knight's decision would leave the coast clear for Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.) to capture the GOP gubernatorial nomination in the primary next June.

Three other men have declared their intention of seeking the senatorial nomination, but the changes were that they might retire in the interests of party harmony. The seat in question is the one Knowland is vacating to run for governor.

The senatorial aspirants were Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco, Controller Robert Kirkwood, and Stockton attorney Warren Atherton.

Knight's decision to retire would avert a bitter primary struggle with Knowland for the Republican nomination for governor.

GAITSKELL HEADS PARTY

London — Hugh Gaitskell will again lead the Labor opposition party in the next session of Parliament, it was announced Thursday night. James Griffiths will be deputy leader and Herbert Bowden the chief whip. No other candidates had been proposed when nominations closed Thursday night.

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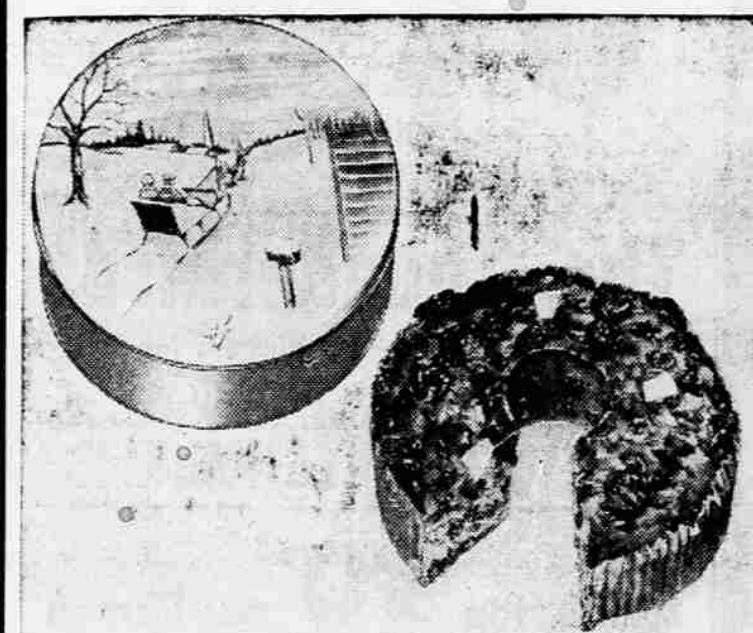
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