

Urgent Need for Understanding Of Population Problem Told

Washington (UPI) — The 20th century has seen the most rapid multiplication of people in history — from about 1.7 billion in 1900 to approximately 3 billion today — according to a new report from the Population Reference Bureau.

The Bureau is a private non-profit scientific organization that collects demographic facts underlying the world's economic, political and social developments. It holds there is urgent need for recognition and understanding of the population growth problem.

Since 1900, the population of the United States has almost doubled. Since 1950 it has increased by 25 million. At this rate, before 2000, it should double again to 350 million, says Robert C. Cook, director of the Bureau.

According to Cook, mounting population pressures affect not only relations among individuals but, more important, among nations as well.

More Problems — "Unless some workable and acceptable way is found to curb a runaway population growth, today's children will inherit world problems far graver than any in history," Cook adds.

Until recently, the most rapid growth was taking place in the countries most advanced economically, with the highest levels of literacy and with access to an abundance of food and natural resources.

Now, the greatest growth is taking place in the underdeveloped areas where more than half of the world's people live in poverty. Birth rates remain high while death rates continue to fall in these underdeveloped areas.

Alaska has the highest birth rate and the lowest death rate among U.S. states. Its population density is about one person per four square miles, as compared with 57 persons per square mile in the continental United States. But Alaska's rate of growth exceeds that of every state except Nevada.

Largest Growth Area — Latin America is growing more rapidly in population than any other area of the world, the death rate having fallen as much as 40 to 50 per cent in many countries. But the report points out that mineral and land resources are near exhaustion and warns that to progress economically and socially, Latin America must find a solution to its population problem.

Canada is in the world's most favorable position today in terms of the number of people and the resources to support them. Immigration, a high birth rate and a low death rate are combining to give her a high population increase. But her vast land area and natural resources should be sufficient to maintain a healthy balance through a program of careful resource management, according to the report.

It also says that India's destiny will be determined by the fertility of her people. If her population continues to increase at the present rate, India will have lost all hope of economic redevelopment by 1986, according to the Bureau. However, if her birth rate starts to decline immediately

to half its present level, it says, her chances for economic achievement may be realized by 1981.

"How a reduction in births is to be achieved is open at present to wide differences of opinion," Cook concedes. "But that some simple, inexpensive and acceptable way must be found is beyond question."

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.

Cynthia Y. — I'm sorry... I was wrong.

Jack Y. — How can I trust her again?

Cynthia Y. — I am 27, have been married ten years and I have four children. My husband is 15 years older than I am.

At the time of our marriage, my family did everything possible to talk me out of it because of the age difference, but I wouldn't listen to anyone. Now I see how right they were. A short time ago I found myself very much attracted to one of the younger men in our community. I finally had relations with him.

Afterwards I felt sorry. I realized how wrong I was. I told my husband and begged his forgiveness. He told me to get out and stay out. He wants a divorce. He called me the worst names and said he'll never let me have the children. I feel that he'll ruin all our lives.

Jack Y. — I'll ruin all our lives! That's typical of Cynthia. She can go ahead and do whatever she pleases, but if there are consequences it's all my fault!

Could any husband feel differently? How can I trust her again? For years she has been flirting with men and I feared just this. She keeps throwing my age up at me. Even older men are married to women her age. I'm healthy and energetic and I'm taken for years younger than I am. I'm not

Truman Turns Down Bid To Meet Nikita

New York (UPI) — Former President Harry S. Truman has revealed that he had declined an invitation to meet Nikita S. Khrushchev, but said he was "glad" the Soviet Premier had received "such a cordial reception" in Washington.

He said that former New York Gov. W. Averell Harriman had invited him to the reception for Khrushchev Thursday.

Truman said he had a dinner engagement with his daughter, Margaret, instead.

We think Cynthia needs to do a lot of growing up before she is capable of being a real wife and mother. She should try to get some professional help from a family case worker. Jack should also see this worker for he will have many problems to cope with — whatever decision he finally makes.

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