

High Birth Rate Said Threat to Education System

Washington (Science Service) - In 1980, the school population is expected to be 59 million. This means facilities will be needed for 14 million more children than the 45 million now overcrowding the nation's schoolrooms.

This gain of almost a third in elementary and high school age children is estimated by statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, based largely on the record high number of births throughout the postwar years and their expected continuation at a relatively high level.

Deterioration of educational systems may be expected unless school facilities are sufficient to take care of this growth. Other effects, overcrowded suburban areas, decaying central cities, vanishing water supplies, higher taxes, all are part of the impact of our burgeoning population on social and economic structures.

Present food resources in the United States are more than sufficient to meet national demands despite increased population. In fact, U. S. food surpluses are economically undesirable from a national viewpoint.

However, on an international level, food production throughout all the areas of the world, developed as well as underdeveloped, must be increased to meet world population demands. Maxwell Stewart of the public affairs committee has urged that the resources of science be applied to this problem.

"With hundreds of millions still without adequate food and the world's population increasing by some 50 million a year, it has become evident that much more needs to be done, and done quickly, if man's hunger is to be conquered," Stewart reports in a new committee pamphlet, "That No Man Shall Hunger," just released.

The committee's main drive for the coming year will be to persuade farmers to use better seeds. Similar drives with the help of public support have helped conquer livestock disease, made new foods available, and increased fishery catches.

Others also concerned with meeting the demands of growing world populations, such as the Population Reference Bureau, believe the answer realistically lies in birth control rather than in increasing agricultural production. More food in itself is not the answer to all the problems that come with expanding populations. As they point out, food production does not give us more schools, housing, water, sewage disposal systems, and other urban and rural requirements for adequate living standards.

Fronzizi Warns of Overthrow Plot

Buenos Aires - (UPI) - President Arturo Fronzizi has warned Argentina in a dramatic nationwide radio broadcast that a conspiracy is afoot to overthrow his government. But he said he would not quit.

"I shall not resign under any circumstances," he said.

He said he would fight to defend his government with every constitutional means at his disposal.

Positive Charge Curbs Corrosion

Tulsa, Okla. (Science Service) - Corrosion is prevented in the chemical process industry by placing a positive charge on the metal to be protected in a new approach to the problem.

Carl E. Lock, Merle Hutchison and Norman L. Conger of the Continental Oil Company, Ponca City, Okla., reported to the meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers here that such a positive charge produces "passivity" in the metal. This method is called anodic protection. Anodic protection has been successfully applied to the sulfuric acid industry.

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