

No longer can we listen complacently as the demographers tell us that if present rates continue the $3\frac{1}{2}$ billions of men and women on earth today, the resultant of tens of centuries of growth, will now double in only three decades—30 short years—and then to 28 billions, and then to 56 billions and then to what? Over a hundred billions? Standing room only? We know it can't and won't happen. The only question is, when it starts happening, whether we, the people of the world, are going to stop this madness ourselves by using our God-given intelligence and our own will power, or whether we will let nature stop it by her own time-honored, effective, but brutal weapons—malnutrition, disease, and then mass starvation. And as that starvation grows, I can see man helping nature along by political conflict and war to just start the thing going faster.

It is true that we in this country have made some progress. During the past decade, motivated toward small families, and with the help of the much maligned pill, and other contraceptives, we have cut our rate of natural increase in half—from nearly 2 percent to less than 1 percent.

Eight and one-half million American women have been taking the pill—nearly one-quarter of our women of child-bearing age.

Senator NELSON. We had our lowest birth rate in history during the depression, did we not?

General DRAPER. No, sir, we passed that last year.

Senator NELSON. Last year?

General DRAPER. Yes, sir. The year before, 1968.

Senator NELSON. 1968?

General DRAPER. We got lower, that is right.

Senator NELSON. I had in my head an old statistic.

General DRAPER. It was lower for a long time on account of the depression.

Senator NELSON. Up until 1968, the lowest birth rate was during that period in the depression, the thirties?

General DRAPER. That is true.

Senator NELSON. That was before there was any pill.

Does that not really indicate that a critically important factor in the whole business is motivation?

General DRAPER. It is the most critical factor, it is more important than the pill or any other contraceptive or anything else. If the people of this country or of any country decide—and it is not the legislators or the government—if the people of this country decide that they want smaller families, by and large they will find a way to have it come out.

But these various contraceptives, methods, are improved greatly over the past, and should be greatly improved again to help that along when there is the right motivation.

Senator NELSON. But it does, does it not, demonstrate something very significant, when you consider—

General DRAPER. Let me point out that in France and Italy where contraception has been illegal, they have perhaps the lowest birth rates in the world. And it probably is not all done by prayer.