

Senator NELSON. I think it is interesting to note that even though the pill has been on the market for six years up to 1968, without any pill at all, well motivated people during the depression had a lower birth rate in this country than afterwards, which ought to tell us something about those who are worried about the fear caused by the hearings.

General DRAPER. It has some bearing.

Senator NELSON. Please continue.

General DRAPER. A few million others have been using other but less effective methods. As a result—and I ought to add their motivation, although I mentioned motivation just before that—our growth rate has been steadily declining almost a tenth of 1 percent a year, although 1969 for the first time saw a slight upward turn in the number of births and in the birth rate itself.

That is probably the result of the baby boom after the end of the war with those babies now coming of fertile age, and adding to the number of babies born, though not necessarily to the percentage.

Senator NELSON. When you are using a percentage figure here, it is a percent of the total population, is it not?

General DRAPER. That is right.

Senator NELSON. So it is still 2 percent birth rate with 100 million people, is it not?

General DRAPER. Equivalent of 1 percent with 200 million.

Senator NELSON. One percent with 200 million. So, since we do have 200 million, even the increase at this rate is a very serious matter.

Now, what is the increase that you estimate would result in zero population increase?

General DRAPER. About slightly over two children per family would bring that about.

Senator NELSON. Are you using percentages here, you say we have gone—

General DRAPER. Well, zero percentage rate would be zero. Zero growth rate means simply that.

Senator NELSON. Zero indicates increase in population, I am talking about that.

General DRAPER. I am, too.

Senator NELSON. But the birth rate?

General DRAPER. The birth rate would have to be approximately, under present death rate conditions, approximately seven-tenths of 1 percent. The last 2 or 3 years, the death rate has been approximately nine-tenths of 1 percent. Now, we have to take into account the fact that we do have some immigration into this country. We have about two-tenths of 1 percent immigration a year. So to have a zero growth rate, we would have to have at present seven-tenths of 1 percent birth rate, as compared to approximately 1.8 percent at the present time. Birth rate, I am talking about. That is birth rate.

Senator NELSON. Maybe I do not understand this.

General DRAPER. Under present conditions, seven-tenths of 1 percent birth rate would be offset by nine-tenths of 1 percent death rate and two-tenths of 1 percent immigration rate, and would result in a net zero growth rate.

Senator NELSON. You said, at what percent birth rate?