

mittee will join in this support. I hope that its members from both parties will give the strongest possible support to the program for greatly increased contraceptive research during the coming 5 years as proposed in the Tydings bill.

It has been estimated that during the past decade, about 20 percent of all births in this country were unwanted. The parents either did not have contraceptive services available, or they failed in use. This would indicate that more than 600,000 births—somebody estimated before this committee, 750,000, somewhere in that range—last year were not planned or wanted. If these estimates are correct, and if improved effective contraceptives actually become available and are used successfully by the parents involved, so that broadly speaking, unwanted children have become relics of the past—and I hope that they will soon come—our present rate of growth of 1 percent per annum—eight-tenths of 1 percent natural increase, plus two-tenths of 1 percent immigration—would drop to seven-tenths of 1 percent—five-tenths of 1 percent natural increase plus two-tenths of 1 percent immigration.

And, of course, we can control the immigration if we find that that is necessary.

While this could not all happen immediately, obviously, the trend with better contraceptives would be in that direction and would have a profound effect on our national future. It would help materially to continue the declining growth rate trend-line of the past decade, and could greatly reduce the 100 million people which President Nixon estimated in his message would be added to our population in the next 30 years.

The future hoped-for improved contraceptives, whether an annual shot in the arm, a once-a-month pill, a morning-after pill, or whatever they may be, would accomplish a great humanitarian good by reducing the numbers of unwanted children, so many of whom now lack the loving care and the economic and social opportunities to which every human being should be entitled.

I should like to refer again to the risks of induced abortion. It is estimated that as many as a million illegal abortions may take place in this country each year and that about 400 of these women may be dying each year to avoid childbirth. That is that theoretical 20 to 100,000 now. This shows what terrible risks women are taking today to avoid unwanted children. How much better if they had only taken the pill, with all its reported risks or used some other contraceptive.

But let us look at the situation from society's standpoint. If these abortions had not taken place, and if a million more human beings were being added to our population each year, our growth rate would be back to $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent, and no longer 1 percent as now. We would add nearly 150 millions rather than 100 millions to our population in the next 30 years, and so compound our problems of education, of deteriorating environment, of urban breakdown, and of air and water pollution. Despite the ethical and religious issues involved, our society owes these million women each year a great debt indeed.

Again, better contraceptives can be a God-send to these million