

women each year by helping them to avoid the very high risks of illegal abortion and still keep down the rate of population growth.

But there is still another approach. The courts in California and also here in the District of Columbia have recently thrown out overly restrictive abortion laws as unconstitutional. Sooner or later the Supreme Court will have to decide whether or not a woman can be forced by society to have a child she does not want. Many States have liberalized or are considering liberalizing their laws on abortion, as Great Britain has already done, and as India is debating. Legal abortions, if performed under hospital conditions during the first 2 or 3 months of pregnancy involve only nominal risk. A newly perfected suction method—which came, I believe from Hungary, where it is legal—and perhaps a new abortive drug may make surgery unnecessary.

Japan cut its population growth in half during the 10 years following the war by legalizing abortion. They also had motivation.

Senator NELSON. Aren't they now to six-tenths of 1 percent?

General DRAPER. No. five-tenths of 1 percent, during the year of the Horse, which in Japanese mythology, I suppose you would call it, means that any child born in that year cannot become pregnant and the rate went lower than it had ever been to about one-half of 1 percent growth rate, and then it went up the following year to seven-tenths.

It is a little less than ours. It came down between 1948 and 1958, or 1960, some 2 percent to 1 percent, and then kept on dropping.

Senator NELSON. Is this annual growth rate, you are talking about?

General DRAPER. Annual growth rate. I am not talking birth rate; annual growth rate, which is the net of the births and deaths.

Worldwide, there is little doubt that legal abortion, as in Japan and in many East European countries, and criminal abortion elsewhere, even now prevent more births than all methods of contraception combined. That is, I am sure, a fact, and it is one I do not think is realized in many quarters.

If greater leeway is given to the medical profession to perform legal abortions by liberalizing or eliminating present laws, many relatively safe abortions may well supplement the improved contraception that can hopefully be anticipated.

I have been discussing the continental United States and its serious population and environmental problems. You, Mr. Chairman, who have proposed a constitutional amendment guaranteeing every American "an inalienable right to a decent environment," understand very well the difficulties of bringing this about. Your proposal fortunately is leading to the environmental teach-in on college campuses and high schools throughout the country next month. I feel sure these campus discussions will help greatly to bring the youth of this country face to face with future realities, and above all to a clear understanding that our national environment cannot be saved for posterity unless our population growth is curbed.

However, the situation in the developing nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America is far more terrifying. Their 2½ billion people are expanding two and a half to three times as fast as we are in this