

marks the culmination of over 30 years of devoted effort begun by your distinguished colleague, former Senator Ernest Gruening, when in 1935, representing President Franklin D. Roosevelt, he opened the first Birth Control Clinic in San Juan, P.R.

I might add that the following year, when the election was on, and there had been some complaints in this case from the Catholic bishop, Jim Farley told him to call it off. And he did.

Almost at the same time that the Puerto Rican Governor made an announcement, a Catholic governor in Asia also spoke out. On January 29, 1970, President Marcos of the Philippines in his State of the Nation message said, "We are faced by a population crisis. It is time that we take steps to arrest a population growth which, unless checked, threatens to compound our problems in the years ahead."

"I have decided to propose legislation making family planning an official policy of my administration." He told me last June when I talked with him in Manila, along with General Romulo, the former president, who is now the foreign minister, he told me then that if he were reelected in November, which he was, he would announce this policy, which is now done.

I quote from him further:

The meaning of the population explosion is human misery—a deprivation of the basic necessities for sheer physical survival. This is the rightful concern of the Church for above all else it is committed to man as man. I, therefore, invite the church to join in a common enterprise to alleviate suffering—to help as its sister churches have helped in many lands where the population explosion is a persistent, an urgent, and above all an intensely human problem.

On the Population Commission which I met with in Manila about the same time last June, one of the Catholic bishops there, a very liberal and fine man, is also a member, and I am sure that his plea to the church was made with full knowledge of those to whom it was addressed.

I might add that the better contraceptives we must find will certainly help President Marcos also carry out his new official family planning program.

And only a month ago—a lot has been happening in these last 2 or 3 months—U Thant and Paul Hoffman initiated an active United Nations population and family planning program to help all member countries who wished such help. Paul Hoffman appointed Rafael Salas, a Filipino who had been the right hand man to President Marcos, as director of the Population Fund for the United Nations. They set a \$15 million program for this year as a starter, a large part of which will be carried out by the World Health Organization, which obviously can offer help to many countries where a bilateral program from the United States would be unwelcome.

This historic action followed 5 years of discussion and debate which has now committed the entire United Nations family to help bring down the world's rate of population growth. U Thant himself has laid out an important and growing role for the United Nations, including WHO, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO and the World Bank—we all know how Mr. McNamara as president of the World Bank has taken up this issue in the last year—and he hopes—that is, U Thant, and believes that during the decade of the seventies we will be finding a humanitarian solution to the world's population problem.