

I certainly hope that turns out to be true.

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that your committee, and the entire Congress, and the American people themselves, might usefully begin considering—and from your questions earlier, I see that you already were—what rate of population growth would best serve the future interests of our country. After full discussion and full consideration our people should reach a consensus, if possible, and decide on the optimum rate, the very best rate of growth for all of us. Then we should shape our tax laws, our social customs, our subsidies and our educational programs toward achieving that best rate on a voluntary basis as soon as possible.

I, myself, believe that the most favorable rate from all points of view would be a zero growth rate. We have gone down already from 2 percent a year to 1 percent a year, and if we give ourselves 20 to 30 years to go down from 1 percent to zero we would find ourselves with about 250 million people in this country by the year 2000. This should be enough for any of us. We would be well on our way to solving our pollution problems, our environment could be saved, and the threat from too many people would be over. Perhaps other countries would want to follow our example.

Finally, I should again like to emphasize that no single action could so surely speed up efforts in that direction here and throughout the world as a massive and well-financed program of contraceptive research carried on by our Federal Government. This committee has demonstrated the overpowering need for far better contraceptives—I hope, recommend, and respectfully urge that it help in every possible way to bring about the financing and the actual launching of a massive research program to provide them.

I should add as a last word that many high officials in India and many foreign observers as well fear that India's half billion people and its 600,000 villages can never successfully curb its overpowering population growth until new contraceptive methods are found which are much better adapted to the poverty, illiteracy and encrusted social customs that now plague its progress. This may be true in many other countries as well.

It is quite possible, Mr. Chairman, that the fate and the future of the human race is actually at stake.

Senator NELSON. General Draper and Mrs. Piotrow, the committee appreciates your taking the time to come here today. It has been a helpful addition to the hearing record.

Are there any questions?

Mr. DUFFY. General Draper, I understand someone has been in contact with you on behalf of Dr. Southam, with reference to a correction in her committee statement.

General DRAPER. Oh, yes, yesterday I was talking on the telephone with Dr. Harkavy of the Ford Foundation and he mentioned to me that in Dr. Southam's testimony, which was presented for the record today, that there had been misunderstanding by her or an omission by her, to state that the figures used in Dr. Southam's statement were based on the less-developed countries and not on the U.S. figures.

Somewhere she had referred to 50 percent going off the pill within a year, or something like that. And I will make available to