

APPENDIX XIII

STATEMENT OF JOHN R. RAGUE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION, INC., 14 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y., PREPARED FOR THE MONOPOLY SUBCOMMITTEE, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, ON THE SUBJECT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRACEPTIVE STERILIZATION AS A MAJOR METHOD OF BIRTH CONTROL

Senator Nelson, distinguished members of the Committee—Thank you for this opportunity to talk with you today about voluntary sterilization as a modern method of birth control. The organization I represent, the Association for Voluntary Sterilization, Inc., conducts a program of education, research and service on voluntary sterilization as one valuable solution to family and population problems.

In a recent discussion on radio between Dr. R. J. Ederer, a professor of Economics at State University of Buffalo, and H. Curtis Wood, Jr., M.D., Medical Consultant to this Association, Dr. Wood made this statement: "There is an organization known as the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, which is under federal grant from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Now, this is a fairly respectable organization, and they said—and I'm quoting them—'Ten to fifteen years from now, every man, woman and child in the hemisphere will have to wear breathing helmets to survive outdoors. Streets for the most part will be deserted. Most animals and much plant life will be killed off. In twenty years, if man survives, he will live in domed cities, and will put on semi-space suits and roam around a deserted, dead country.' We ran out of clean air six years ago, the last being in Flagstaff, Arizona. Pollution is increasing far faster than the air can cleanse itself. So this Atmospheric Sciences Research Center is predicting that in maybe ten or fifteen years from now, if a mother wants to put her baby outside in the playpen, she'll have to put a gas mask or helmet on him or something."

A recent national conference sponsored by the Association for Voluntary Sterilization, Inc., in which leaders of several major national conservation organizations participated, had the following theme: "Conservation and Voluntary Sterilization—A New Alliance for Progress". This theme was carefully chosen because we believe that voluntary sterilization could be used by a greatly increased number of Americans in order to stabilize our spiraling population growth and give anti-pollution efforts a chance to succeed.

Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich, outstanding biologist at Stanford University and author of the best-selling book, *The Population Bomb*, stated at that Conference: "The species we are trying to conserve now is *homo sapiens*, and ironically the only hope we have is by reducing the numbers of human beings on the Spaceship Earth. Voluntary sterilization should be promoted all over the world—it is one of the best means of conservation available to us."

We read today of new types of mass transportation in the planning stage, and of architects' visions of new "omni-buildings"—gigantic structures which are practically cities in themselves. All this to *accommodate* and *adjust* to an expected population increase of 100,000,000 Americans within 30 years—a 50% addition to the current population. Even Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, in a recent lecture, warned us that by the year 2,000, we Americans will be jammed together in an "ant-hill society" due to continuing migration into "megalopolises" already in formation along the east and west coasts. He recommends, among other measures, construction of new cities away from present urban concentrations. Regarding such new cities, he states candidly that to accommodate the 100,000,000 projected population increase within the next 30 years, by this approach alone, would require building a city the size of Tulsa, Oklahoma, every month until the year 2,000.