

The tragedy is that nowhere in the thinking of the architects, or in Mr. Stans' attitude, can we discern anything but acceptance of this fantastic population growth. Where is the understanding of the terrible social and economic strains that it will produce in our country? Where is the determination and will not to merely accept it as inevitable but to do something effective to stop it? Where is the national commitment to programs of education, research and service that will enable us to steer clear of the "Ant-hill Society" and head off destruction of what is left of the country we love?

If we can land men on the moon, we can, with an equal commitment, reduce the population explosion in this nation to zero. Zero, in this case, means a great deal. It means the difference between a reasonably good life and a life of impossible overcrowdedness, vanished recreation space, destroyed wildlife, polluted air and water, and an endless floor of cement and asphalt from Boston to San Francisco.

I submit that in both the governmental and private sector, the intellectual and executive leadership of our nation should concentrate *now*—not 10 or 20 years from now—on the immediate necessity for reducing the U.S. population growth rate to zero, and then to implement programs of information, education, service and financial incentives which will make such stabilization possible. There is increasing acceptance among the American people of this idea. A new organization called Zero Population Growth, Inc., started hardly a year ago, has burgeoned at an astounding rate, and now has active and enthusiastic chapters in over 60 localities around the country. College students preparing exhibits and speaking programs for "Environmental Action Day", April 22, are well aware of the importance of zero population growth and its corollary, the two-child family. These students, vitally concerned with the destruction of our environment, understand the basic prerequisite of halting population growth in order to reverse this trend. They have already ordered from this Association thousands of lapel buttons saying "Stop at Two", and more orders are coming in daily.

Nor has the U.S. government entirely ignored this essential point. At a recent Conference on Environment here in Washington, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert H. Finch bluntly endorsed the idea of the two-child family as a social and family ideal for all Americans. He termed overpopulation "a paramount concern that must be dealt with if other environmental problems are to be solved." In like vein, President Nixon's chief Science Advisor, Dr. Lee DuBridge, has called the reduction of the earth's population growth rate to zero "the first great challenge of our time." He said: "Do we need more people on the Earth? We all know the answer to that is 'No' . . . Can we reverse the urges of a billion years of evolving life? We can. We know techniques for reducing fertility. We are not fully utilizing them . . . Can we not invent a way to reduce our population growth rate to zero? Every human institution—school, university, church, family, government and international agency such as UNESCO—should set this as its prime task."

Other distinguished men of science and government have also endorsed this concept. Among them is General William H. Draper, Jr., one of the most eminent men in the population field. General Draper recently called for a zero population growth rate for the U.S., "by the end of the present century."

The Committee on Resources and Man, of the National Academy of Sciences, has also gone on record forthrightly declaring the need for zero population growth by the year 2,000.

To these statements, I can only say that the concept is correct, but the time framework is too lenient if we are to save what is left of the quality of life in our country.

To accomplish zero population growth in the U.S., the average number of children per family must be reduced from 2.8, where it is now, to 2.2. This, of course, means that most families must limit children to two.

In September of 1969, the Board of Directors of this Association unanimously passed a Resolution on the Desirability of the Two-Child Family, which states in part: "We have resolved . . . that the medical profession should make voluntary sterilization, for both men and women, more freely available to those who want no more children, regardless of the number of children they already have; and we further resolve that, to prevent over-population, American parents in general, irrespective of race, economic status, educa-