

reproductive span, a more complex subject not considered here, they do show how the net effect of fertility and mortality changes have operated to contribute to the decline in the rate of total population growth of the United States.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has from time to time made projections of U.S. population on varying assumptions about the future course of fertility and mortality. Such projections made in 1967 indicate that, despite the declining crude birth rate, the United States will continue to experience large absolute population increase in the decades which lie ahead. These projections show that by 1990, only 23 years hence, the population of the U.S. may reach a level of from 256 to 300 million. One of these projections, based on the assumption that fertility would remain at the level obtaining in 1964 and 1965, would produce a population of 207 million by 1970, 243 million by 1980, and 287 million by 1990. The same projection gives a population of 336 million by the year 2000 and 430 million by 2015. These data constitute a brief overview of the population explosion in the United States, retrospective and in prospect. Let us next turn to a consideration of the population implosion in this nation.

*The Population Implosion.*—In 1790, 95 per cent of the population of the United States lived in rural areas, that is, on farms or in places having fewer than 2500 persons. The 5 per cent of the population who lived in cities were concentrated in 24 such places, only two of which (New York and Philadelphia) had populations of 25,000 or more. By 1850, population in urban places was still as low as 15 per cent. By 1900, however, almost two-fifths of the population lived in cities. But it was not until as recently as 1920 that the U.S. became an urban nation in the sense that more than half of the population lived in cities. That many critical problems affect cities and urban populations should not be too surprising in light of the fact that it will not be until the next Census of Population is taken, in 1970, that the United States will have completed her first half century as an urban nation.

The increase in urban and metropolitan population is the result of net migration as well as natural increase. Cities and metropolitan areas have over the years received large numbers of migrants from rural and non-metropolitan areas of the United States as well as through immigration from abroad. For example, between 1950 and 1960, 35 per cent of the total metropolitan growth was the result of net migration (including immigration) and 65 per cent the result of natural increase.

Migration, in the United States, as elsewhere, represents mainly a movement of population from places of lesser economic opportunity to places of greater opportunity. Moreover, in the United States, as elsewhere, migrants have often been ill prepared in their areas of origin for life in these areas of destination. In consequence, the problems of adjustment of in-migrants to urban and metropolitan areas are often difficult as they seek to accommodate to their new setting. Furthermore, the problems of adjustment are compounded when complicated by differences of language, culture, religion, ethnicity, or race.

The speed of the population concentration in urban and metropolitan areas becomes clear in an examination of developments since the turn of the century. In the first sixty years of this century the increase in urban population absorbed 92 per cent of the total population growth in the nation. In the decade 1950 to 1960 the increase in urban population absorbed more than 100 per cent of total national growth; that is, total rural population, including nonfarm as well as farm, actually diminished for the first time.

The increase in the population of metropolitan areas is equally dramatic. The increase in the population of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's), as they are officially designated by the Federal government (cities of 50,000 or more together with the counties in which they are located), absorbed 85 per cent of total national growth between 1900 and 1960; and the 24 largest SMSA's, those with 1,000,000 or more, absorbed 48 per cent, almost half of the total growth of the nation in the first sixty years of this century.

In consequence, by 1960, 70 percent of the American people, 125 million, resided in over 6000 urban places; and 63 percent, or 113 million persons, lived in 212 SMSA's. In 1965, 67 percent or some 129 million persons lived in the 228 metropolitan areas as defined on May 1, 1967.

The trend towards increased urban and metropolitan concentration of population is likely to continue. The reasons for this are to be found in the advantages of clumpings of population and economic activities. As Adam Smith noted, the greater the agglomeration the greater is the division of labor possible; and this generates increased specialization, easier application of technology and the