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WHERE SHE STOPS NOBODY KNOWS

A Paper for the Kit-Kat Club

January 21, 1964

By Don E. Weaver

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January 11, 1971

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My virgin appearance before the Kit-Kat Club was on January 20, 1948. My topic was "The World's Acceleration." It was a brief look at the increasing growth of world population and the even more rapidly increasing rate of use of all natural resources. I certainly didn't invent the population explosion, but it wasn't being discussed much then.

In the 16 years that have elapsed since, the phenomenon long since dubbed the "population explosion," has captured the attention of science. It also is being furtively recognized by the mythologists in the social fields and by politicians.

Population, and the acceleration thereof, is becoming recognized as the most unique and the most dangerous factor that mankind faces today.

An excellent capsule example of acceleration of human accomplishment was given in a recent issue of Reader's Digest. Humanoid creatures such as those discovered by Dr. L. S. B. Leakey in East Africa, first used crude rock hand hammers.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Department of Economics, Chicago, Illinois, January 21, 1954

Dr. J. R. Hicks

My first appearance before the National Bureau of Economic Research was on January 20, 1953. The topic was "The World's Population". It was a rather long and the increasing growth of the world population and the ever more rapidly increasing rate of net of all natural resources. I certainly didn't want to have the population explosion, but it wasn't being discussed much then.

In the 10 years that have elapsed since, the phenomenon long since dubbed the "population explosion" has captured the attention of scholars. It also is being actively recognized by the mythologists in the social sciences and by politicians.

Population, and the acceleration thereof, is becoming recognized as the most acute and the most dangerous factor that marks the future.

An excellent specific example of acceleration of human accomplishment was given in a recent issue of Reader's Digest. The article, "The World's Population", was covered by Dr. J. R. Hicks in his article, "The World's Population".

Some anthropologists estimate it took Man another million years to use fire, another quarter million to invent the bow and arrow. But it took the bow and arrow user only 50,000 years to invent firearms.

Only three hundred years later Man invented the Big Bertha 60 mile cannon of World War I. Within another 50 years Man had invented space ships and missiles and atomic fission. He has the power to destroy his world if he chooses.

From a slow start a long time ago, Man's rate of acceleration in technical accomplishment has reached an amazing and dangerous tempo.

The proliferation of Man in numbers, paralleling and resulting from his scientific prowess, is just as amazing and critical.

The December bulletin of the Population Reference Bureau in Washington points out that when Jesus walked the earth, there were only about 250, ~~000~~ million people on it. It took 16 centuries for this number to double.

But the next doubling occurred in only two centuries, and the next in only 80 years.

There are now more than three billion people on earth---and 2 billion of them are hungry. If current rates of increase continue, world population will again double in a mere 38 years.

Let us look at a smaller sector, our own state of Ohio, for comparison. Best estimates of historians and archeologists are that the Indians inhabiting this area when the white man first came totaled not more than 12 or 15 thousand. In my Kit-Kat paper 16 years ago I gave Ohio population as 7 million. Today there are more than 10 million Ohioans---very few of them Indians.

Demographers have projected present population curves to a point where, in relatively few years, there would not be standing room for all the people. But before hanging out the SRO sign, Man will do something about his own multiplication.

Views are changing rapidly. We quote a few comparisons from the Population Reference Bureau bulletin:

Dr. Vannevar Bush, at the Harvard tricentenary in 1950, dismissed the population crisis as something the chemists and technologists could take care of with science "getting there first" and "with each break-through at a higher level."

There are now more than three billion people on
earth and 2 billion of them are hungry. It is not surprising
of interest contrast, world population will again double
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own civilization.

Views are changing rapidly. We quote a low com-
parison from the Population Reference Bureau Bulletin:
Dr. Vannoy Bush, in the 1954 paper, estimated that
1950, dismissed the population growth as something that
science and technology could cope with. It is now
getting more fixed and with each passing year a
higher level.

But only four years later Dr. Bush was saying: "We can see that man is headed for catastrophe unless he mends his ways...the world's population is increasing at a rate which renders distress, famine and disintegration inevitable unless we hold our numbers within reason... New methods of extending food supply, powerful as they may be, can only postpone the crisis."

President Eisenhower, in December 1959, slammed the door on any U.S. government action on population control. He said: "I cannot imagine anything more emphatically a subject that is not a proper political or government activity or responsibility."

But in October, 1963, Mr. Eisenhower was writing in the Saturday Evening Post: "The time has come when we must take into account the effect of the population explosion on our mutual assistance system...I simply want to stress the responsibility we have for finding some realistic means of containing the human explosion...When I was President I opposed the use of Federal funds to provide birth-control information to countries we were aiding because I felt this would violate the deepest religious convictions of large groups of taxpayers... As I now look back, it may be that I was carrying that

but only last year (1961) Dr. Plan was saying:

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But in October, 1961, Dr. Eisenhower was writing

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I was President I opposed the use of Federal funds to

provide birth-control information to countries so long

as long because I felt this would violate the deepest

religious convictions of large groups of taxpayers...

So I now look back, it may be that I was carrying this

conviction too far...I still believe we should not make birth control a condition of our foreign aid, but we should tell receiving nations HOW population growth threatens them and what can be done about it."

Closer home, I quote a Franklin County welfare supervisor speaking to a staff meeting of case workers, in a discussion of relief clients, married and unmarried, having too many children.

"It is not our business how many children they have, whether one or 20," she said. And yet it becomes the taxpayers' business when welfare levies are submitted.

As the Population Reference Bureau says: "The population problem is complex. It includes politics, religion, food, research, and that word which we now admit exists--sex."

A century and a half ago Dr. Thomas Malthus propounded his theory that mankind tends to reproduce himself faster than he can provide sufficient food. The industrial revolution seemed to demolish Dr. Malthus' thesis. But perhaps it is now time for some wise man to restate it. The principle he advanced still seems to hold good.

It is not merely reproduction but preservation of people that makes our population problem today. One of

conversion too fast... I still believe we should not have

such control & restriction of our freedom, but we

should still have with nations the population growth

increases which will not be a good thing.

Class here, I don't think in country with

specialized spending to a great extent, of case workers,

in a district for other clients, married and unmarried,

having too many children.

In the past, our business has many children they have

whether one or two, she said, and yet it becomes the

largest business when women have six children.

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OVERCROWDING
PROBLEM
1950

our greatest advances has been in our power to defer death. Science conquers disease. Life expectancy in the United States advanced from 50 to 70 years in this century.

Now the magic of science is just beginning to touch the vast reservoirs of population in Asia and Africa, and especially in Latin America. If these areas move toward our low death rate and continue their reproductive levels, the population explosion we talk of today will be as the pop of a firecracker in comparison.

Failure of public officials and many others convinced of the need to do something about population control has been due in part to the monolithic opposition of the Catholic Church. It also stems from ancient folkways which held that to increase and multiply was a high and necessary human aim. Partly it is based on the ignorance of most people, both primitive and cultured, as to the nature of the problem and the need for doing something about it. Since the population problem involves sex, it encounters the reticence and mythology that have surrounded sex for centuries.

But leading Catholic clergy and laymen have recognized the problem. Much attention is being given a recent book, "The Time Has Come," by Dr. John Rock, a prominent

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The leading Catholic clergy and laity have recog-
 nized the problem. Much attention is being given a recent
 book, "The Time Has Come," by Fr. John F. Collins, a prominent

Catholic layman. He was a leader in development of the birth control pill.

"Instead of attempting to draw distinctions which are untenable," he says, "Catholics would be better advised to sit down with their Protestant and Jewish colleagues and work out the details of a sound public policy for all publicly financed programs..."

"Indiscriminate procreation is no moral ideal but mere irresponsibility, for the family must make prudent provision for the future welfare of the children, both spiritually and physically." / ^(end of quote) Dr. Rock was on TV recently in a program telling how birth control pills are being used by mountain women of Kentucky and the poorer women of Puerto Rico.

And yet demographers regard even the most successful birth control crusades as an abstraction in the face of the torrent of world population increase.

Cardinal Suenens, archbishop of Brussels, said in October that birth control would be considered by the Vatican Ecumenical Council before it finishes its work.

The Reverent John A. O'Brien, writing for the Ave Maria and the Christian Century, says that, "Contrary to widespread belief, the Catholic Church does not forbid birth regulation....The church teaches that the primary

end of marriage is not merely procreation but also the education of offspring..In short, responsible parenthood."

Thought is changing. Richard N. Gardner, deputy secretary of state for international organizational affairs, wrote an article titled "The Politics of Population," in the September 7 issue of the Saturday Review.

"Until very recently," he said, "Western thought has been characterized by an optimistic faith in the inevitability of progress. Despite two terrible wars, the Depression, and the revolutionary ferment that is currently shaking our civilization, many of us still cling to the assumption that the human condition is destined to improve. If the condition of the individual, not gross statistics, is to be the measure of our progress, it is absolutely essential that we be concerned with population trends. So long as we are concerned with the QUALITY of life we have no choice except to be concerned with the QUANTITY of life."

Arnold J. Toynbee, the distinguished historian, addressed the World Food Congress in Washington last June. Speaking of Man's limited success in coping with the ravages of war, disease and famine, he added: If we are to defeat these three scourges, not just momentarily but definitely, we have to win a fourth victory. We have to conquer one of our most intimately and most deeply ingrained habits, traditions and prejudices. We have voluntarily to

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Arnold J. Toynbee, the distinguished historian,
addressed the world population problem in his book,
"The Sinking of Man's Limited Horizons in coping with the
tragedies of war, disease and famine, he stated: 'If we are
to defeat these three scourges, not just momentarily but
definitely, we have to win a global victory. We have to
conquer one of our most insidious and most deeply ingrained
habits, traditions and prejudices. We have voluntarily to

regulate our birth rate to match the regulation of our death rate that we have already been achieving."

As our own Bert Thomas said in an excellent talk to the Rotary Club, modern scientific knowledge confronts a heritage of tradition, religion and myth. And Bert quoted Ben Franklin's sage remark that Man's greatest problem is man himself.

Bert believes the cold war will be won by the nation making the most intelligent use of its technological skills. Of course making the best use of what we know should include using what we know scientifically about population control, as well as using what we know about new chemicals or computers.

Over a year ago, science, communication media and the public united in a giant effort called Sabin-on-Sunday. A majority of the population gulped a drop of anti-polio vaccine. The result has been an almost polio-free year.

Will we some day use the same intelligence to promote what is even more of a human problem than polio---a runaway birth rate?

If we have documented our thesis sufficiently, perhaps we can in this intelligent company, cast aside our natural instinctive prejudices for a moment and examine some of the means available for limiting population growth, short of war, pestilence, famine or euthanasia.

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rate that we have already been achieving.

As our own Dr. Thomas says in an excellent talk
to the Society last year, modern scientific knowledge is
a heritage of the world, and we have passed
it on to the next generation. It is a problem for
us to handle it.

Population Control

But believe me, the world will be won by the nation
which uses the most intelligent use of the technological skills
of course, making the best use of what we know. It is
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as well as using what we know about new chemicals for
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Over a year ago, science, communication media and
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A majority of the population signed a pledge of anti-birth
control. The result has been an almost total birth control
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With us some day, the same intelligence to promote
what is very much of a human problem from birth to
death.

If we have documented our needs sufficiently,
perhaps we can do this intelligently, based on our
natural instinctive objectives for a woman and examine
some of the more available birth control methods,
short of war, pestilence, famine or earthquake.

There are three general methods, given in descending order of desirability:

First, by preventing conception through chemical or mechanical devices---birth control.

Second, prevention of conception by sterilization of either partner of the sexual union.

Third, prevention of birth by abortion after conception has occurred.

Birth control has been practiced more or less successfully by primitive means for centuries. Only recently the birth control pill has been developed to the point of effectiveness. One of the imminent break-throughs promised at the American Association for Advancement of Science meeting in Cleveland during the recent holidays was a birth control pill to be taken only once a year.

(Perhaps all of you have heard of the birth control pill already approved by the Church---a pill the size of a tennis ball, to be held between the knees at the appropriate time.)

Public acceptance of birth control is very recent. Margaret Sanger, its pioneer advocate, was abused and persecuted for years before the Planned Parenthood Association was tolerated as a worthy addition to our social field.

There are three general methods, given in descending

order of desirability:

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Second, by prevention of contact by sterilization

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Third, by removal of sperm from the vagina after con-

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Presently all of you have heard of the birth control

pill already approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

It is a pill, to be taken between the time of the ovulatory

cycle.

Public acceptance of birth control is very recent.

Margaret Sanger, the pioneer advocate, was arrested and her

services for years before the Planned Parenthood Association

was tolerated as a society which is our social field.

Sterilization, of male or female, had to await development of modern surgical knowhow to be safe and effective. It still is used in a very limited way, either voluntarily or enforced. Puerto Rico is a capsule example of sterilization as a public policy. Women having two or three live children submit tacitly or openly to "la operación" that frees them from the burden of larger families which neither they nor their little island could support.

Abortion has been practiced since ancient times, often through grotesquely crude or cruel means. It was adopted by Japan after the war as public policy. Japan was critically over-populated. Through legal use of all three means of limiting population growth, Japan's rate of increase is now one of the lowest in the world---nine-tenths of one percent, compared to 1.7 per cent for the United States, 3.6 for Brazil, and 2.2 for India.

Abortion is practiced furtively but widely in the United States. Some estimates run to 2 million a year. Since it is illegal and considered unethical by the medical profession, it is performed by midwives and quacks. It is dangerous and expensive for the same reasons.

Abortions can be performed legally in many states by ethical surgeons, for good medical reason. What we are

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Development of modern surgical knowledge to be said and
effective. It will be used in a very limited way, either
voluntarily or otherwise. But also it is a consequence
of civilization as a public policy. Women having two or
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often through proprietary agents or crude means. It was
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Abortion is practiced privately and widely in the
United States. Some estimates run to 2 million a year.
It is liberal and considered unobjectionable by the medical
profession, as is performed by nurses and druggists. It is
the cause and expense for the same reason.
Abortion can be performed easily in any state by
either the woman or good medical person. There we are

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speaking of here is abortion as a method of population control or to avoid having more children.

Beyond the means of preventing birth, mankind in his various times and conditions has practiced many other ways of limiting his numbers directly or indirectly.

Infanticide is practiced by many primitive peoples, often for ostensible reasons of religion or superstition. But often these reasons cloak other reasons of eugenics or economics to remove the weak or malformed, or mouths that could not be fed.

Not only babies but the old people who survive the hard lives of primitive societies to the useless ages of 50 or 60, sometimes were eased prematurely into the great beyond by voluntary or involuntary abandonment or deprivation.

The problem of eating has been man's constant shadow since he arose from all fours with a club in his hand. It still walks with him. We are often reminded that two out of three families living in the world today never have had enough to eat.

The Aswan Dam in Egypt is scheduled to fill its great Nile reservoir by 1972, allowing irrigation of millions more acres of desert. Will it raise the standard of living of Egyptians? Dr. Hanna Rizk, vice president of the American

WAGGONMOUNT COMPANY

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great like reservoir by 1975, without irrigation or millions

more acres of desert. Will it raise the standard of living

of Egyptians? Dr. Hannu Risk, vice-president of the American

University at Cairo, says it will solve very little if any of Egypt's food problem. By the time it is finished, Egypt's population will have increased 13 million, about 60 per cent. Cairo's population has grown by 250 per cent in the last 20 years, Alexandria's by 220 per cent.

Singapore may hold the world record for rate of population increase, 4.3 per cent a year. The Singapore Family Planning Association is trying to stem the tide with birth control clinics---like the sorcerer's apprentice trying to sweep back the tide with a broom.

In India, despite enlightened efforts by its own government, and a great deal of outside help, the real standard of living is declining.

Latin America is just as serious, and more acute for us. It already outnumbers our 180 million U.S. population. There may be 300 million Latin Americans by 1975 and 600 million by the year 2000, at present rates of increase.

It is ironic that Edmund Halley, an astronomer whose name rides a famous comet, constructed the first empirical life table in 1693, relating births and deaths to the age and structure of populations.

In our time the United Nations has taken up the study. Its secretariat reported (quote):

University of Chicago, says it will solve very little of
 any of the world's food problem. At the same time, it is
 a population which have increased 1.5 billion, about
 50 per cent. China's population has grown by 25 per cent
 in the last 20 years, and India's by 50 per cent.
 Singapore has held the world record for rate of
 population increase, 1.1 per cent a year. In Singapore
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 study. Its conclusions reported (quote):

"Population enters into the problem of achieving satisfactory standards of living in three principal ways. First, high birth rates create a heavy load of dependent children per adult...complicating the problem of providing the children with education essential for social and economic progress.

"Second, falling death rates with high birth rates bring a rapid increase of population. Large investments must be made to keep the growing number of workers equipped with the same inadequate amounts of working equipment they have had in the past, so that possibilities of investment to improve equipment and raise productivity are diminished.

"Third, many underdeveloped countries have an excessive density of agricultural population, so that the average farmer has too little land to make a satisfactory living for himself and family." (end quote)

Adlai E. Stevenson, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., has said that "scientific discoveries have so extended the average span of life that population growth threatens to frustrate all our costly efforts to achieve significant improvements in living standards."

Senator Joseph S. Clark of Pennsylvania said in the U.S. Senate last October 10:

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"Two grim specters beckon mankind toward oblivion today: One offers instant and wholesale death by nuclear means. The alternative guarantees eventual starvation when the human population exceeds the food supply. I am convinced that both challengers will be bested. Certain positive steps substantiate my belief.

"First, man this year is taking his first international step to control the atom.

"Second, man this year, through the efforts of scientists, appears to be taking the necessary first step which will permit many who are concerned to resolve the birth control problem by acceptable means.

"There is an urgency involved in the need to discuss population control." (end quote)

Nineteen sixty-three may have been the year of break-through toward doing something effective about our runaway population.

Government agencies are studying the problem.

Professional and scientific groups, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, are speeding up research on ways and means of controlling population.

Georgetown University, a Catholic institution, has established a Center for Population Research. Harvard established its Center for Population Studies.

Two main objectives remain: to control population growth and to ensure that the quality of life is maintained. The first objective is to control population growth, and the second is to ensure that the quality of life is maintained. The first objective is to control population growth, and the second is to ensure that the quality of life is maintained.

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The Ford Foundation set up a separate population department with \$11 million---bringing up to \$24 million total since 1952---to be spent in encouraging population stabilization.

While high-level organizations of the world and our nation come to grips with this problem, there should also be education and action at our local levels.

Existing agencies such as the Planned Parenthood Center should be encouraged and financially supported to bring birth control within reach of more people who want and need it.

The medical, legal and social professions should publicly lead community and state efforts to examine the potentials of population control---including birth control, sterilization and abortion---to determine how, and to what extent, they may be used legally and legitimately.

Ohio's laws are ambiguous at best, with respect to all three methods. Birth control is still covered in Ohio's law on obscenity. *(Repealed, 1965)*

A Columbus state representative, Lytle Zuber, submitted a carefully drawn bill in the last Legislature to allow sterilization of the unfit. It got nowhere because it got no support from medical, social or legal professions.

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A Columbus area representative, Eric Lopez, suggested a carefully drawn bill in the last legislature to allow sterilization of the unfit. It got nowhere.

Because it has no support from medical, social or legal professionals.

If we are to have effective means of population control and eugenic control of reproduction, we must have a legal climate that will first allow and then carefully safeguard the methods used.

Instead of hiding our heads in the sand or fighting over religious sanctions respecting birth control, we should have friendly dialogue seeking formulas whereby the moral or religious convictions of those holding contrary views will be respected, while at the same time their views may not bar the use of birth control methods by those who are willing to accept them.

It has taken thousands of years of human history for the problem of population to reach the icimax so widely recognized today, just as the hurricane may be weeks in forming out in the Sargasso Sea before it sweeps with sudden and intense fury along our coast.

The population storm has reached hurricane proportions and man is recognizing it. He is beginning to seek means of protecting himself from it.

Will the hurricane blow harmlessly out into the sea of time again, through some now unrecognized factor that will decrease human fertility as it has suddenly increased in the past?

PROGONENTIAL RECORD

It seems to have effective means of population control and family control of reproduction, we must have a legal climate that will first allow and then carefully administer the methods used.

Instead of being out hands in the sand or refusing to recognize a situation, we should have actively engaged ourselves in the search for a solution of religious convictions of these holding non-ethical views will be respected, while at the same time their views may not be the use of birth control methods by those who are willing to accept them.

It has taken thousands of years of human history for the problem of population to reach the point at which it is recognized today; that at the moment may be seen in a chart on the far right side of the page which shows and indicates very clearly the population growth. The population growth has reached a point where man and man is recognizing it. He is beginning to feel the pressure of increasing birth rate.

With the increase in population, we must have a more effective means of population control, and we must have a legal climate that will first allow and then carefully administer the methods used.

The condition of man in his different societies varies widely. Even in our time of great achievement, there are groups of people on all the continents who still have not emerged from stone age culture.

The factors in the logistics of population and standards of living are so many and so different that it is dangerous to generalize very much.

But in the light of what we know, we cannot assume that the population problem will just go away. We had better do something about it.

The primary effect of overpopulation is hunger, squalor and the grinding despair of miserable people.

Another effect is political. Hungry, hopeless masses of humanity respond to any stimulus that promises a change if not improvement of their lot.

So we are seeing unrest and rioting from Panama to Zanzibar, from teeming Calcutta to Paris where masses of students protest overcrowding in the universities. These are not strange phenomena but logical effects of recognized causes.

As Americans we are about 6 per cent of the world's people. We have far more than our share of the wealth---too much, on the average, for our own good.

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So we are seeing a great increase in fanaticism
throughout the world, from Russia to Latin America, from
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As Americans we are a part of the world's
people. We have had more than our share of the world's
trouble, on the average, for our own good.

Yet even here we are beset with problems of city slums, chronic unemployment, growing juvenile crime, school crowding and race friction.

We who still treasure our pioneer heritage of love of space and the wilderness, see our marching cities gobbling up farm land, our streams polluted by our wastes, our natural beauty marred by a mass population, auto-borne to every hal-
lowed forest and mountain retreat.

Before long the luxury of hunting and fishing and the enjoyment of primitive outdoors will be available only to those wealthy enough to own a nature preserve.

Man is no stranger to problems. He always has had them. Once his problem was to breed fast enough to keep even with his death rate.

He still has a problem--different from any he ever faced. It is not how to keep ahead of his death rate, but to keep his birth rate from smothering him. He must solve it or nature---whose laws are so often invoked in discussions of this subject---will solve it in some way or ways that will not be mild.

In his recent book, "The Rise of the West, a Study of the Human Community," William H. McNeill, chairman of the history department at the University of Chicago, says:

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In his recent book, "The Rise of the West, a Study
 of the Human Community," William H. Rostell, chairman of
 the history department at the University of Chicago, says:

"Quite possibly European civilization (from which ours derives) incorporated into its structure a wider variety of incompatible elements than did any other civilization of the world; and the prolonged and restless growth of the West, repeatedly rejecting its own potentially 'classical' formulations, may have been related to the contrarities built so deeply into its structure. Coming late to the scene and inheriting such incompatibilities, the high civilization of the Far West (us) has not yet come to rest but has revolutionized itself three times over. No other civilized society has ever approached such restless instability, nor exerted such drastic influence upon its fellows all around the world....

"From the perspective of the mid-twentieth century, the career of Western Civilization since 1500 appears as a vast explosion, far greater than any comparable phenomenon of the past in geographical range and in social depth....

"When all propitious circumstances have been duly considered, there still remains always an element of incalculable surprise in human affairs." (end quote)

Human affairs, like the wheel of fortune at the fair, keep on turning. We can try to guess what fortune may bring us. But actually, as Dr. McNeill and the barker at the wheel of fortune agree--- where she stops nobody knows.