

Depopulation bills deluge Congress

by Linda Everett

Despite daily headlines screeching about how our shrinking workforce is unable to support the growing elderly population—now two taxpayers pay into each retiree's Social Security benefits whereas the ratio was once 40 taxpayers supporting each individual beneficiary—the malthusian lobby is right now peppering the nation's capital with a barrage of bills that, if not derailed, threatens to put in place both the apparatus and funding commitment that will wipe out even more of future generations in this country and among the developing sector nations.

The bills represent one arm of a major campaign by the same eco-fascist depopulation lobby, who would rather let hundreds of millions in the Third World die than allow the development of "environmentally offensive" industry, and who have proposed spending \$10 billion a year to limit to two the number of children per family worldwide—so as not to damage the planet. What is increasingly clear is that both the depopulation lobby and feminists in the United States are promoting the use of abortion as a contraceptive—as Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) pointed out last July. Yard said at that time that abortion "is not just about a woman's rights but about life on this planet." If the present population growth rate continues, she warned, it will lead to "a catastrophe."

New abortion drugs

Included in this campaign is the massive push for broad use of the new chemical abortion called RU-486, developed by the French drug firm Roussel-UCLAF. The drug is currently used in France for inducing first trimester abortions by blocking the hormone progesterone which is critical to maintaining the pregnancy. But RU-486 is targeted for use in this country as the most effective "contraceptive" for American teenagers. Proponents believe they will have better "control" over the teen pregnancy crisis by distributing RU-486 in school clinics as a once-a-month abortion-contraceptive. RU-486 is the initial and main thrust in each of the following bills calling for research into new contraceptives.

Representatives Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.) and Pete Kostmayer (D-Pa.) have called for doubling U.S. family planning funds to carry out the World Bank's program of

getting 72% of the Third World's population on contraceptives to cut birth rates, as the "first line of defense against environmental destruction in the developing world." Their bill, the International Voluntary Family Planning Act (H.R. 4075) targets sub-Saharan Africa, not as a recipient of food, but for \$500 million in research into family planning information and contraception. But, as one editor pointedly wrote, "You can't eat condoms."

Representative Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), who has charged U.S. anti-abortion groups with "medical McCarthyism" and being the cause of every crisis from the lack of funding for fetal tissue research to scaring off birth control researchers, has introduced H.R. 2956 and H.R. 173 with cosponsor Rep. Olympia Snowe (R-Me.). The bills, actually launched by Schroeder in conjunction with Planned Parenthood, would establish five new research centers under the National Institutes of Child Health and Development (NICHD). Three would concentrate on research and development of new forms of birth control and two on the treatment of infertility. Despite the fact that contraception research is going full blast at NICHD and at many institutions around the country with hefty government and private funding, H.R. 2956 and a similar bill, S. 2215, introduced by Senators Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), call for \$20 million in funding for each institution for the next two fiscal years, and \$12 to \$13 million each for the following three years. The bills would pay \$20,000 of each health professional's education loan for each year of service he dedicates to contraception research. Other federally funded inducements are offered to U.S. drug companies to expand availability of new contraceptives.

Hiking the abortion rate

Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) has introduced two bills, S. 110 and S. 120, and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) has introduced H.R. 930, which would drastically expand funding for the Planned Parenthood's favorite bread-and-butter contract, Titles 10 and 20 of the Public Health Service Act to research "new contraceptives" and train family planning personnel; fund abortions and school based clinics; expand state family planning services; profile target populations; and reauthorize the adolescent family life projects. The bills would revoke the Reagan-era regulations that banned the use of Title 10 funds for abortion counseling or referral. These regulations are being contested in court by Planned Parenthood, the largest provider in the government's family services contracts nationally.

The Freedom of Choice Act, H.R. 3700 sponsored by Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), and its companion bill, S. 1912, sponsored by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), intend to establish abortion on demand as a federal policy, eliminating any restriction by the states.

All this, while the birth rate in the United States sank below replacement levels years ago.