News Notes

U.N. Asked To Aid Birth Control; Sweden Appeals; Connecticut Court Upholds Curb

The United Nations has been asked to give leadership in developing programs of population limitation all over the world. An appeal, entitled "A statement of conviction about overpopulation," was presented on 17 November to Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold by a committee of signers led by biologist Sir Julian Huxley and Cass Canfield, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The statement was signed by citizens of 19 countries, including 39 Nobel laureates and 133 other scientists, writers, health experts, educators, and political leaders. The document, which has been sent to the heads of state of each member nation and to President-elect Kennedy, reads as follows:

"*Because*: Two-thirds of the world's people are now underfed;

"Each day one hundred and forty thousand people are added to the world's population; and each year 50,000,000 more people;

"Within another generation, unless there is a striking change in population trends, there will be twice as many human beings on our planet; United Nations demographers estimate 1960 world population at nearly three billion, and predict more than six billion by the year 2000;

"Mainly as a result of medical progress, man's life expectancy has been greatly prolonged and is certain to increase further;

"The spreading impact of technology, spurred on by population growth, is rapidly wasting wide areas of natural beauty and wiping out incalculable numbers of plants and animals that are of basic importance and interest to mankind;

"In spite of technological advances the earth cannot provide much longer enough food and minerals for a population which is increasing more than geometrically;

"Unless a favorable balance of population and resources is achieved with a minimum of delay, there is in prospect a Dark Age of human misery, famine, undereducation and unrest which could generate growing panic, exploding into wars fought to appropriate the dwindling means of survival;

"We believe that widespread, effective and voluntary use of medically sound and individually acceptable birth control is an essential factor in any humane design to raise world living standards and achieve international peace as well as social and family stability.

"Therefore we support with conviction and urgency the efforts, within individual nations, to control the birthrate.

"And we urge that the United Nations, dedicated to the service of mankind, take the lead in establishing and implementing a policy designed to limit population growth the world over—in order that human beings everywhere may grow on a qualitative rather than on a merely quantitative level, and in order that they may be assured of the opportunity to develop their highest capacities, and to enjoy individual freedom, the advantages of education and public health, privacy, abundance, security, and the beauty and wonder of the world."

Earlier, on 7 November, Sweden called for an "open and unbiased discussion" of birth control in the United Nations, urging that the population issue be included on the General Assembly's agenda. Ulla Lindstrom, a Swedish minister of state, pointed out that various organs of the U.N. had conducted studies dealing with birth control—the World Health Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and the Population Commission—but that these efforts had not been coordinated. She observed, for example, that FAO "counts the quantity of food available but does not count the number of mouths to feed."

Yearbook Findings Arouse Concern

The evidence presented in the U.N.'s *Demographic Yearbook, 1959*, released in September, is arousing fresh concern. The population of the world is now increasing at the rate of 48 million per year, an annual increment of 1.7 percent. The increase on the North American continent matches the average world rate. However, the population rise is only 0.7 percent in Europe, while it is as high as 2.7 percent in Central America.

There is also a wide spread in birth rates throughout the world. The birth rate is only 18 per thousand in overpopulated Japan but has reached 60 per thousand in parts of Asia and Africa.

The increased rate of population growth is not due to changes in the birth rate, which remained fairly constant between 1954 and 1958, but to a decline in the death rate. If the current trend continues, the world population will double every 40 years.

The U.S. Problem: Its Affect Abroad

Demographer Lincoln Day has focused especially on the problem in the United States in an article entitled "Our irresponsible birthrate" (Columbia University Forum, Summer 1960). He points out that since World War II our population has increased at a higher rate than India's. The birth rate in the United States is now 25 per thousand, whereas it was 18 during the depression. If the average growth rate of the last 5 years is continued for the next 98, the population of the United States will then be 1 billion.

The increase in the U.S. birth rate is attributable not to an increase in the number of very large families but to an increase in the proportion of medium-sized families with 3 or 4 children and an associated decline in the proportion of families with one or no children and in the proportion of people who never marry.

Population growth in the U.S. has particular significance in terms of the consumption of world resources, for Americans comprise but 6 percent of the world's population but consume half of the world's production of major minerals (iron, copper, lead, and zinc).

Connecticut Court Upholds Curbs

In startling contrast to the preceding reports, on 15 November the five-member Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors upheld unanimously 81-year-old statutes making it illegal to use contraceptives or to provide birth control advice. A physician who violates the law is liable to fines totaling not less than $50, imprisonment for not less than 60 days, or both.

In the recent case, a young married couple, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Trubek, brought suit after a physician had refused to give them contraceptive advice, saying that the statutes violated their constitutional rights under the Fourteenth Amendment. The amendment forbids states to "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." The Trubeks, students at the Yale University Law School, say in their complaint that they want to raise a family but "first wish an opportunity to adjust, mentally,

spiritually, and physically, to each other so as to establish a secure and permanent marriage" before they become parents.

The state court's recent decision held that "The judiciary has a duty to test legislative action by constitutional principles, but it cannot, in that process, usurp the power of the Legislature."

The court ruled similarly last December in a case brought by C. Lee Buxton, chairman of the obstetrics department at Yale University, on behalf of several of his patients. This case differs from the Trubek's because it holds that employment of contraceptive measures is essential to safeguard the health of the plaintiffs' wives. The Buxton case has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and is scheduled for argument in February.

News Briefs

Control of the mind. An unusual symposium, to be held 28–30 Jan. in San Francisco, will bring together some of the world's foremost medical scientists and men of letters for an interdisciplinary report on the "Control of the Mind." The meeting is presented by the University of California's Medical Center and University Extension, with the financial assistance of the Schering Foundation. The participants will include writers Aldous Huxley and Arthur Koestler; H. Stuart Hughes, Harvard historian; Harold D. Lasswell, Yale law professor; C. A. Mace, British psychologist; James G. Miller, director of the Mental Health Research Institute at the University of Michigan; Wilder Penfield, neurosurgeon and philosopher; Martin C. D'Arcy, former master of Campion Hall, Oxford; Donald O. Hebb, chairman of the department of psychology, McGill University; Holgar Hyden, professor of histology, University of Göteborg, Sweden; and many other distinguished specialists. Further information may be obtained from the Department of Continuing Education in Medicine, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco 22, Calif.

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Washington career center. The Career Center, a recruitment and information center sponsored cooperatively by 17 firms and government agencies, will operate from 5 to 8 December in Washington, D.C., at the Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel. Run by Careers Incorporated, nationally known recruitment specialists, the center will make it possible for engineers, scientists, and technical personnel to evaluate the range of opportunities in their field under a system of anonymous registration. The last Career Center, held in Los Angeles, attracted more than 1300 registrants.

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New mineral announced. The discovery of a new mineral—a cubic copper-arsenic sulfide—was announced by Charles B. Sclar, geologist for the Battelle Memorial Institute, at the recent annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver. Codiscoverer is Matija Drovenik, mining geologist for the Bor Copper Mining Corporation, Bor, Yugoslavia, where the mineral was found. It has been named lazarevićite in honor of M. Lazarević, the pioneer investigator of the geology and ore deposits of the Bor region from 1908 to 1913. Lazarevićite occurs as microscopic grains in copper ore associated with enargite, luzonite, covellite, and pyrite.

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Biophysicist not to be deported. The United States Immigration Service reversed itself on 22 November and decided not to force John R. Johnston, a Scottish biophysicist, to leave the country because he picketed the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Johnston has been a teaching and research associate at the University of California since 1956. He may remain in this country until 31 August. The ruling against Johnston upheld the view that it was "out of line for a foreign student to picket a committee of Congress."

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

General. The National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council has announced its program of postdoctoral resident research associateships, which is supported by several agencies of the federal government. Through these associateships, tenable at certain government laboratories and research centers, young investigators are offered an exceptional opportunity to receive advanced training in well-equipped laboratories among highly qualified scientists.

Participating laboratories are the National Bureau of Standards, (Boulder, Colo., and Washington, D.C.); the Naval Ordnance Laboratory (White Oak, Silver Spring, Md.); the Naval Research Laboratory (Washington, D.C.); the Naval Weapons Laboratory (Dahlgren, Va.); the Navy Electronics Laboratory (San Diego, Calif.); the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Biological Laboratories (Fort Detrick, Frederick, Md.); several laboratories of the Agricultural Research Service; and four technical centers of the Air Research and Development Command. Applicants will be required to produce evidence of training equivalent to that represented by the Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree and to demonstrate superior ability for creative research. The stipend for most of these programs will be $8955, subject to income tax.

Research opportunities at the regular and senior postdoctoral levels are also available at the Goddard Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (near Washington, D.C.), at the Quartermaster Research and Engineering Center Laboratories (Natick, Mass.), and at the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute (Chicago, Ill.). Stipends are appropriate to the level.

Brochures describing these separate associateships in detail may be obtained by writing to the Fellowship Office, National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington 25, D.C. In order to be considered for 1961–62 awards, applications must be filed with the Fellowship Office on or before *1 February 1961*. Awards will be announced by the participating laboratories about 1 April.

In addition, a new postdoctoral research fellowship program has been inaugurated this year, supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research of the Air Force Research Division. Awards will be made in the various branches of the natural and applied sciences to United States citizens at the postdoctoral level for work at educational institutions and research laboratories in the United States and abroad. The stipend for this appointment is $6000 annually, with dependency allowances. Applications, which are also available from the NAS–NRC Fellowship Office, must be returned no later than *9 January 1961*.

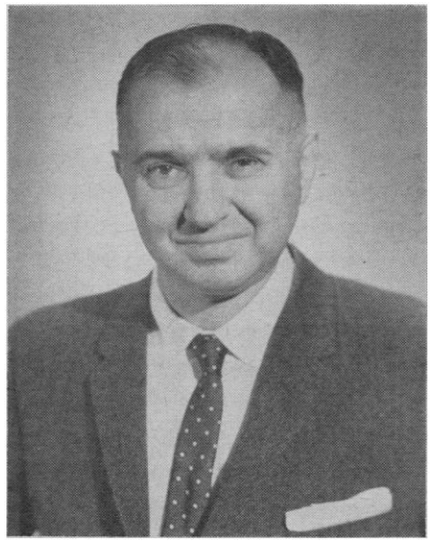
Life sciences. The Division of Biological and Medical Sciences of the National Science Foundation has announced that the next closing date for receipt of basic research proposals in

the life sciences is *15 January 1961*. Proposals received prior to that date will be reviewed at the spring meeting of the foundation's advisory panels, and disposition will be made approximately 4 months after the closing date. Proposals received after the January closing date will be reviewed after the summer closing date of *15 May*.

The next closing date for submission of proposals for specialized biological facilities is *1 March 1961*. The NSF has two programs for support of facilities, one for general graduate-level university laboratories and the other for specialized biological facilities. The latter are defined as discrete research installations which are unique, one-of-a-kind, or at least out of the ordinary in that they are not a usual part of a university department. Inquiries should be addressed to the National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Scientists in the News

Harry Polachek, technical director of the Applied Mathematics Laboratory at the U.S. Navy's David Taylor Model Basin in Washington, has received the Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award that the Secretary of the Navy may confer on a civilian employee. Polachek was honored for his achievements in organizing and directing the Applied Mathematics Laboratory, particularly for demonstrating the potential of high-speed computers and for his contributions to scientific, technical, and management fields, such as nuclear reactor design, advanced programming systems, and analysis of acoustic signals.



Harry Polachek

The Mellon Institute has announced that its 1960–61 Duncan Memorial Lecture will be delivered on 15 December by **Detlev W. Bronk**, president of the Rockefeller Institute and president of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Albany Medical College of Union University has presented its fourth annual Honorary Lectureship Award to **Maurice B. Visscher**, professor and chairman of the department of physiology at the University of Minnesota Medical School. The award was presented at the college on 17 November. Preceding the award ceremony, Visscher lectured on "Education Today for Medicine Tomorrow."

Konrad Krauskopf, associate dean of Stanford University's School of Mineral Sciences and a member of the editorial board of *Science*, has received the Arthur L. Day gold medal of the Geological Society of America, one of the most important honors in its field. Krauskopf, professor of geochemistry, was cited for his brilliant research into the characteristics of ore-bearing fluids. The award was presented *in absentia* at a Denver meeting of the Society, as Krauskopf is on sabbatical leave in Göttingen, Germany, where he is studying thermodynamics. He will teach at Massachusetts Institute of Technology before returning to Stanford in the fall of 1961.

An Australian scientist, **J. L. Pawsey**, has won the Hughes Medal, awarded annually by the Royal Society of London for original discovery in the physical sciences. Pawsey, who is assistant chief of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization's Division of Radiophysics, was honored for his distinguished contributions to radio astronomy.

Ralph P. Ruth, former project physicist for the Bendix Corporation in Detroit, has been appointed a senior scientist at the Hoffman Science Center, Santa Barbara, Calif., where his research will be primarily in the field of thin films for solar cell applications.

Veikko Severi Rossi, chief of the aerological section of the Finnish Meteorological Bureau, is at present on a 70-day tour of the United States to visit meteorological facilities of the U.S. Weather Bureau and the Air Weather Service.

Michael Heidelberger, emeritus professor of immunochemistry at Columbia University and visiting professor of immunochemistry at the Institute of Microbiology at Rutgers University, recently received the Louis Pasteur gold medal of the Swedish Medical Society. The medal was originally presented to Pasteur himself on his 70th birthday, and subsequently, since 1900, it has been awarded at 10-year intervals to other distinguished biochemists.

Recent Deaths

George Ferguson, Jr., Charlottesville, Va.; 75; emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Virginia and former dean of its College of Arts and Sciences; during 37 years at Virginia, also served as dean of admissions and registrar; 21 Nov.

Robert A. Lambert, Fairhope, Ala.; 76; research pathologist and a former member of the Rockefeller Foundation; retired from the foundation in 1948 after having served in France, the Near East, and South America; was a director and later a consultant with the World Health Organization; 20 Nov.

Oliver J. Weinkauff, St. Louis, Mo.; 56; organic chemist for the Monsanto Chemical Company; served there for 29 years—as a research chemist (1931), as assistant director of research (1943), as associate director of research (1947), as director of technology (1956), and as research associate (1960); 12 Nov.

Robert N. Wilson, Durham, N.C.; 85; emeritus professor of chemistry at Duke University; 19 Nov.

Hidehiko Yamabe, Evanston, Ill.; 37; professor of mathematics at Northwestern University; formerly taught at the University of Minnesota; in 1953, his "Hilbert's Fifth Problem" was cited as the first complete solution of this problem of topology and was termed the best mathematical solution of the year; 20 Nov.

Erratum: The citation of original description used in the report "Venation polymorphism and genetic variability in *Drosophila melanogaster* Loew" by J. Bennett, R. L. Capek, T. R. Kallstedt, and R. E. Moisand [*Science* **132**, 1399 (11 Nov. 1960)], should have read "*D. melanogaster* Meigen," not "Loew," as it appeared in the published report.

Erratum: The program of the symposium "The Impact of Space Research on the Sciences" of the American Geophysical Union [*Science* **132**, 1562 (25 Nov. 1960)] contains incorrect listings for the planning committee, presiding officer, and date. Robert Jastrow, listed as presiding officer, is secretary of the planning committee; E. M. Purcell, of Harvard University, on loan to Brookhaven National Laboratory, is presiding officer; the symposium will be held 28 Dec.