

Throughout, the Church was silent, possibly reflecting, in part, the hierarchy's reluctance to clash publicly with the first Catholic president; but this silence may also have arisen from the Church's realization that it has nothing to gain from the social turmoil that often attends uncontrolled population growth. Along the way, the change in public and Church attitudes was even accompanied by a reversal of Eisenhower's thinking. Writing last October in the *Saturday Evening Post*, the former president declared: "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 conviction too far. I still believe that as a national policy we should not make birth-control a condition to our foreign aid, but we should tell receiving nations how population growth threatens them and what can be done about it." This would seem to be an extremely realistic way of going about it, and is pretty much what is now going on, with more to come.

As has often been noted by persons involved with the economic development of the population-burdened nations, no success can come from white America's telling its dark-skinned friends, "There should be fewer of you." What has to be done is to convince these nations that uncontrolled population growth, in many circumstances, is a burden on economic development, and once this message has been absorbed by the national leadership, the means must be made available for achieving effective birth-control programs. With its thinking proceeding along these lines, the Kennedy administration began, first of all, to talk aloud a great deal about the effects of population growth, and then began to take steps to analyze and expand the amount of research going on in connection with fertility control.

Last December, for example, with the United States offering its support, a number of Scandinavian nations successfully sponsored a resolution calling for the United Nations to encourage international cooperation in population planning. Not long afterward, NIH published an inventory of fertility research, and Kennedy commented at a press conference: "As you know the U.S. government . . . gives assistance to re-

Hornig Appointment Confirmed

President Johnson has approved the appointment of Donald F. Hornig to succeed Jerome B. Wiesner as the White House science adviser. Hornig, who is chairman of Princeton University chemistry department, was named to the post by President Kennedy. Johnson confirmed the appointment following a meeting last week with Hornig. Still to be settled, however, is when Hornig will take up his duties. At the time of his designation by Kennedy, it was announced that he would take office about 1 February. According to a spokesman for the Office of Science and Technology, there may be some delay in the changeover, but at this point it is not certain.

search in the whole area of fertility and biological studies of reproduction and all the rest, which, I think, are important studies. . . . I think they're very useful and should be continued. . . . Can we do more, should we know more, about the whole reproduction cycle and should this information be made more available to the world so that everyone can make their own judgment, I think that it would be a matter which we could certainly support."

Once again, ears were tuned for reaction from the Catholic hierarchy, but none of any significance was forthcoming, nor, again, was there any potent Church opposition offered when John Rock, a Catholic physician, published *The Time Has Come*, which argues that progesterone oral contraceptive is theologically acceptable to the Church. The book, which also called upon the Church to reexamine its position on birth control, was found lacking in some respects by Cardinal Cushing of Boston, but the Cardinal only rapped the author's knuckles and went on to state, "In this book, there is much that is good. . . . Surely, Dr. Rock, and other physicians, have much to offer the Church and her teaching authority if medical men and theologians study together the complex problems of human reproduction."

With the ideological battle apparently reduced to insignificant proportions, some of the difficult realities of the population problem are now coming into clearer focus. To some extent it was convenient to live with the illusion that the Catholic Church is the principal impediment to birth control in the underdeveloped nations, but the fact is that the Church has virtually nothing to do with the population problems of the Asian lands, while in Latin America the dynamics of population are so powerful that theology is only a small part of the problem.

Governments can and must talk about birth control if it is to be quickly accepted by the rural, impoverished and semiliterate citizens, but birth control is probably the most personal and nongovernmental thing known to humankind, and it is going to take a lot of education, skill, and science to get the downtrodden of the underdeveloped lands to adopt practices that were very slowly acquired in urbanized Western lands. It might be noted that India feels it has been making a good try in this direction since 1950, with 8500 clinics throughout the country, 25,000 medical and social workers trained in family planning, and a variety of planning and research activities supported by American foundations and the Indian government. Nevertheless, Avabai B. Wadia, president of the Family Planning Association of India, wrote recently that "despite all this useful activity and extensive coverage, the program has not yet succeeded in touching the core of the problem, which is to initiate a downward trend in the birth rate. Although a dozen years is perhaps too brief a period within which results can be expected, this fact is causing serious anxiety and concern, for it is imperative that the family planning program in India should succeed—and quickly—in effecting reductions in the birth rate, and not function merely as a useful welfare device. Measures therefore are now being sought whereby the normal pace of a massive change-over to this new, and in some ways revolutionary, practice can be steeply accelerated. It is obviously a race against time, if the nation is not to be tragically crippled by a soaring population in its advance toward a rising standard of living."

With Congress now having put its stamp of approval on U.S. involvement in population matters, the Agency for International Development (AID) is