

available. A proper understanding of cultural evolution can point the way to policies which increase people's freedom to act rationally and do not involve dictating by the old and the affluent to the young and the poor.

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Hardin's suggestion that "Freedom to breed is intolerable" is debatable. We have never really had "freedom to breed" in the sense that *not* breeding has so far not yet been freely allowed. In those countries in which abortion has been legalized, the birth rate has dropped sharply, alarmingly in some cases, even though abortion is an inefficient, distasteful, and time-consuming birth control measure. If, in addition, contraceptive methods of all sorts were available free to anyone, with free medical assistance if desired; and if the lost work time involved were compensated adequately, so that a poor person really lost nothing financially by getting involved in birth control; then it seems probable that the birth rate might drop low enough to stabilize the population for several generations. . . .

ROBERT H. GOOD

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Moscow Meetings

Pener's letter (29 Nov.) regarding his exclusion from the 13th International Congress on Entomology in Moscow last August is most disturbing. I trust that explanations and assurances will be forthcoming from those concerned. I urge that, until adequate guarantees become available, individual scientists, organizations, and agencies reexamine their plans to meet or participate in meetings under such auspices. Last October I attended the Fifth International Symposium on the Chemistry of Cement in Tokyo and was pleased to hear that an invitation had been tendered to hold the Sixth Symposium in Moscow. If there is to be a significant likelihood that scientists from Israel will not be as free to participate there as they were in Tokyo or at the previous symposia in Washington or London, I trust that this planned activity will be rescheduled so as to avoid any such discrimination. . . .

BRYANT MATHER

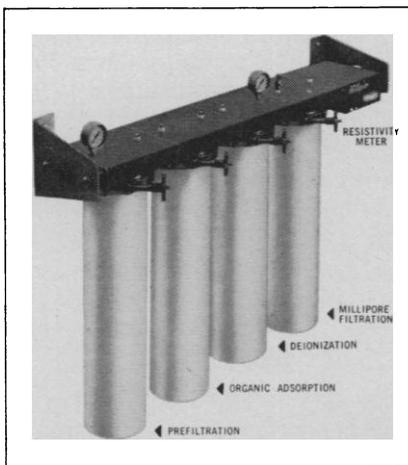
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