

SOCIOLOGY

Urban Planning Needed

The United States' growing population, with its concomitant health problems that are both physical and psychological, means that planning is needed.

► **OVERPOPULATION** is one of the serious problems menacing civilization today.

Sufficient attention has not been given to conserving human and other resources by means of population limitation. Many fear that this would be tampering with "natural laws" or the laws of God, Reginald R. Isaacs of Harvard University, a regional and city planner, told the 1958 National Health Forum meeting in Philadelphia.

Yet, we not only interfere with "death laws," reducing death rates, but we place into the hands of a few men the powers to destroy whole populations. Competition for space and means of support may touch this off, he pointed out.

Our major health problems arise from masses of people living too close together in competition for this needed space and means of support.

Another problem which he stressed was the unaccepted governmental centralization which has met some of these health problems. Only a fraction of our 165,000,000 population has accepted the government supervision.

Mr. Isaacs predicted that in 20 years the population will have jumped to 230,000,000 and in 50 years will have increased to a possible 330,000,000.

New practices of freedom and government will have to be devised, he stated.

"Rigid governmental, economic, and social controls beyond any that we have known will be required to place the community interest—the common good—before the so-called "rights" of the individual. Herein may lie major health problems, psychosomatic, psychiatric, and psychological as they may be, resulting from the reversal of almost unlimited freedom of action to strong community controls commensurate with the needs of a tremendous and densely settled population," he concluded.

Orvin W. Campbell, manager of Miami-Dade County, Fla., also urged that governmental steps be taken to plan for the population increase of the future. Our basic need and hope, he said, is a governmental agency capable of blending and controlling these health problems.

Urban Obsolescence

► **URBAN OBSOLESCENCE**, the abandonment of old metropolitan areas by families who prefer the sprawling suburbs, is causing a painful transition within the cities which demands more brains, character, drive, organization and leadership, a metro-

politan project planner told the Forum.

From now on, Luther Gulick, president of the New York City Institute of Public Administration, said, most Americans will be born, grow up, live, work and die in great metropolitan complexes; some in the cities, some in the expanding suburbs, but mostly in urban surroundings.

The new metropolitanism is affecting most of our social institutions such as church life, clubs, societies, voluntary hospitals and charities, cultural and recreational establishments, political parties and government operations, he said.

Slums outrun renewal projects, schools become overcrowded, crime breaks out, water pollution increases and industrial waste fumes hover overhead in increasing amounts.

Metropolitan development has forced us into the necessity for a new type of thinking, he stressed. Government structures are needed which can handle this expansion, can marshal the resources of technical competence, of leadership and of money, and plan for future development while building for the present.

"We are short of clear thinking, political, social and business leadership, and appropriate governmental institutions, plans and decisions," he said.

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GEOPHYSICS

Strange Tracks Puzzle Students of Ocean Floor

► **"CHICKEN TRACKS"** where no chickens could possibly have walked and scratched are currently puzzling scientists at Columbia University's Lamont Geological Observatory, New York.

The "tracks" were photographed more than a mile below the surface of the Arctic Ocean in the first pictures ever made of the ocean bottom in the central polar region. So far scientists have not been able to determine what they are, how they got down 7,500 feet or how long they have been there, although marine life is known to be present.

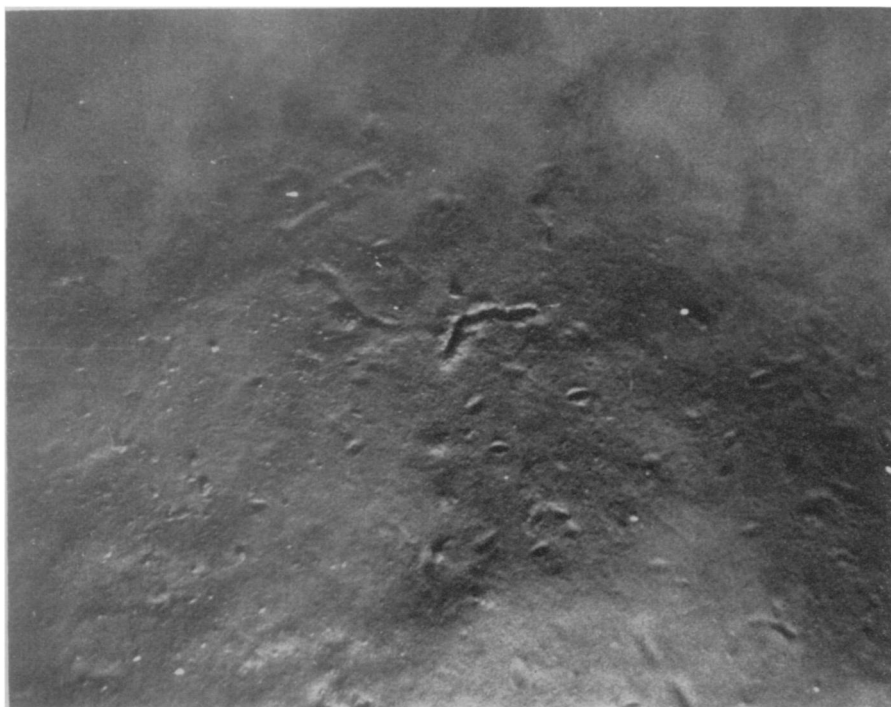
The markings, if made by sea snails, would have a burrow at one end and a snail at the other, Dr. Kenneth Hunkins, a geophysicist at the Observatory, said.

Other pictures show large rocks on the ocean floor with no rock formation visible. They could have floated out on the ocean on ice floes and later fallen to the bottom when the ice melted.

A 35-millimeter camera with its own light source is used to take the photographs. Enclosed in a metal container, it is lowered through a hole in an ice floe. When the camera hits the ocean floor, the impact triggers both light and shutter and a picture is taken. One picture every 30 to 40 seconds will be taken if the camera is not lifted.

The special camera, designed by Lamont geologist, Dr. Edward M. Thorndike, can also be used to determine the speed of ocean currents. Since it stirs up a cloud of muddy water when it strikes the bottom, current speed can be determined by noting how many pictures are taken before the water clears.

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"CHICKEN TRACKS"—Short tracks of unknown origin were photographed on the ocean floor, 7,500 feet down. The cloudiness at the top of the photograph was caused by the camera when it hit the bottom. The photographs were taken in the vicinity of 83° N, 165° W in the Arctic Ocean.