

SOCIOLOGY

Birth Control Hot Issue

The world population problem again brings up the controversial issue of whether or not birth control knowledge should be made available to the masses—By Elizabeth Mirel

► BIRTH CONTROL for unmarried women is one of the hottest issues in the controversy surrounding recent proposals to control the excessive rate of world population growth.

Scientists, scholars and laymen have been taking account of the fact that the world's population is likely to double within the next 35 years. The welfare of human beings is endangered by this explosion, they have found. Global, national and local programs to curb the increasing birth rate have been outlined.

The U.S. Government has officially supported a United Nations resolution to "encourage and assist" governments, especially those of developing countries, in fertility control research.

The National Academy of Sciences, top-ranking scientific organization in the U.S., has declared population a problem second in urgency only to the "search for lasting peace." It has recommended expanding knowledge and facilities for fertility regulation, with the U.S. taking a strong lead.

Dr. John Rock, professor emeritus of gynecology at Harvard University and director of the Rock Reproductive Clinic, Inc., reported on the population menace in a recent book. Dr. Rock, a Roman Catholic, argued for a public policy on birth control that meets the needs of all religious persuasions. Church officials have denounced his proposals, saying the suggestions will foster promiscuity.

Illinois is battling with legislation that would make birth control devices available to women on relief. The state senate passed

a bill limiting the program to married women living with their husbands. Illinois relief rolls are swollen with 500 illegitimate births per month in Chicago's county hospital. The state spends more than \$10 million a month on aid to dependent children.

In the U.S., the number of children born out of wedlock has more than doubled since 1945. As of 1957, 47 of every 1,000 live births were illegitimate.

In the developing Latin American countries, the rates are many times higher. For every 1,000 live births, 716 are illegitimate in Guatemala, 613 in El Salvador, 739 in Panama and 240 in Argentina. In these countries, many persons do not recognize the concept of legal marriage.

Birth control for those who need it means birth control for unmarried women. We must "face the facts of life," Dr. William D. McElroy of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, told SCIENCE SERVICE. We cannot "legislate morals," the chairman of the National Academy of Sciences panel on population problems said.

Birth control devices are now available to anyone who has money and intelligence enough to get them. Equal opportunities must be provided for those who do not have these resources, Dr. McElroy stated. Contraceptive devices, he said, are "absolutely essential" to keeping down birth rates.

The Academy's report on population growth did not spell out the details of this problem. It is different for each country and for each conscience, Dr. McElroy said, but a person "has a right to get information."

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North Carolina were questioned. There is hope for change, Dr. Coles said. Negroes often lose some of their doubts, and whites, some of their misinformation, he found. The teacher may gradually be able to relax in the classroom. Children may even be able to educate their parents to accept social changes, he reported.

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Sikorsky Aircraft

SKYCRANE—The Sikorsky S-64 is shown in flight with its removable van capable of transporting 68 battle-ready troops. The van, which is more than 34 feet long, can also be converted to serve as a portable field hospital or command post. The van fits flush against the airframe and the rear of the cockpit.

PSYCHOLOGY

Negro Inferiority Claims Unsupported by Evidence

► CLAIMS OF NEGRO inferiority are not supported by the science of psychology.

There is no reliable evidence to prove that Negro and white differ in their innate mental abilities, Dr. Otto Klineberg, formerly of Columbia University and now at the University of Paris maintains.

The findings that improved environment raises intelligence test scores counterbalance the results that Negro I.Q. scores are below the national average.

The differences within the white or Negro groups are far greater than those between the groups, Dr. Klineberg pointed out in the American Psychologist.

Differences in the mental ability of the Negroes and whites have been demonstrated, but there is no proof that they are native differences. Dr. Klineberg said those who use the excuse of color or any other physical characteristics to deny individuals "the right to full participation in American democracy" receive no support from psychology.

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SOCIOLOGY

Trials of Desegregation

► THE NEGRO CHILDREN who spearhead desegregation in the public schools will not be seriously hurt by their trials.

For once, they can face humiliation and isolation for a purpose. This may be one of the first times in their lives when their suffering seems sensible, when they have a chance to gain a sense of self-respect and dignity, a two-year psychiatric study has shown.

The Negro child is used to a life of restriction, Dr. Robert Coles told the 119th annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association at St. Louis, Mo. The city has taught him to live with the fact of his inferiority. At an early age he learns to master his feelings of worthlessness and anger at the unfriendly world, Dr. Coles said.

White children learn to associate dark

skin with the bad, or the untouchable, Dr. Coles, research consultant to the Southern Regional Council, Atlanta, reported. Sometimes they develop a pathologically strong fear of dark skin that, later on in life, appears as a passionate hatred of Negroes.

In most cases, however, the problem of desegregation merges with the other problems of growing up, Dr. Coles said, and so it is soft or harsh depending on the individual child.

In New Orleans, the 11 Negro six-year-olds who initiated desegregation and eight of their white classmates were studied, and their parents were interviewed. Nine Negro high school students who started desegregation in the city of Atlanta and 11 of their white classmates were interviewed. Students, parents and teachers in the rural towns and larger cities of Arkansas, Tennessee and