

Birth Control Propaganda Creates 'Over Population' Scare

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Louis University

Lately, I've been receiving considerable literature on the problem of over-population. The last piece to arrive at the office speaks of the "population bombshell" and carries frightening quotations from a long list of important people. It says the Church's stand is the big obstacle to reasonable action, citing one Protestant theologian as saying Roman Catholics had better revise their views. Are we ignoring the problem? What is the Catholic position?

No, Ed, the Church isn't ignoring the problem. Pius XII has dealt with it time and again in the last twenty years. I know the literature you mention. Unfortunately, the "important people" frequently cited have little training in population problems.

They are frightened by the expansion of Communism among the economically underdeveloped countries and see one easy method of raising the standard of living: cut the birth rate.

Some of the current "scare" literature goes further, stating the world, and even America, is rapidly running out of resources.

What do trained population experts tell us? First, they do not speak of the population problem, but of problems. The situation and its solution differ from country to country.

Second, they do not define these problems as simple ratios between people and resources. Owing to modern advances, our resources may be regarded as practically unlimited. The crux of the problem is shortage of capital, organization, and "know how" to exploit them in many countries.

Third, although adequate, usable, and reliable statistics are sadly lacking for many major regions, it seems clear that world population is expanding rapidly at present. This growth is closely related to recent advances in health care and its greater availability.

Fourth, they insist we can-



not yet predict future growth trends. They reject the simple projection of present trends into the future, as is commonly done in popular literature to create a frightening picture. We have not discovered any universally applicable "laws" of population growth.

Fifth, they emphasize the present lack of adequate data and theory. As population expert, Philip Hauser, of the University of Chicago, told the World Population Conference held in Rome in 1954: "We are particularly ill-equipped to provide policy makers and administrators with an adequate factual basis for social engineering purposes."

Well, Ed, this is the way the trained experts view the situation. Population problems are serious in many regions, proposed solutions must be tentative and varied, though most imply some reduction in present growth trends. I can't discuss these solutions here, but

I did want you to get the facts straight.

Ed, you well know that it is not the function of the Church to advance any detailed plans for dealing with overpopulation. Catholic teaching defines the moral dimensions or framework of the problem, and it is up to population experts and other scientists to work out solutions on the basis of those terms.

The Church does not ignore the problem, but she insists it cannot be solved by methods which destroy human dignity and frustrate man's purpose in life.

The Church has always insisted on control, but control of the sexual drive, not control of the reproductive consequences. She teaches that population problems can be solved if man use science for production rather than destruction. But this implies the very self-control which most modern programs openly reject.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, March 21, 1953

Arab Republic Silent On State Religion

Damascus, U. A. R. — (NC) — No mention is made of a state religion in the provisional constitution of the new, predominantly Moslem United Arab Republic.

The constitution of the new state, which unites Egypt and Syria, asserts that "citizens are equal before the law and no discrimination as to race, origin, religion or belief will exist among them."

THE CONSTITUTION'S omission of a reference to an official religion is regarded by Catholic leaders here as a great improvement over all previous Egyptian or Syrian constitutions.

There are about 322,000 Catholics in the U. A. R., which has a total population of approximately 27.5 million. The provisional constitution does not apply to Yemen, an almost wholly Moslem nation in southwestern Arabia, which has joined the U. A. R.

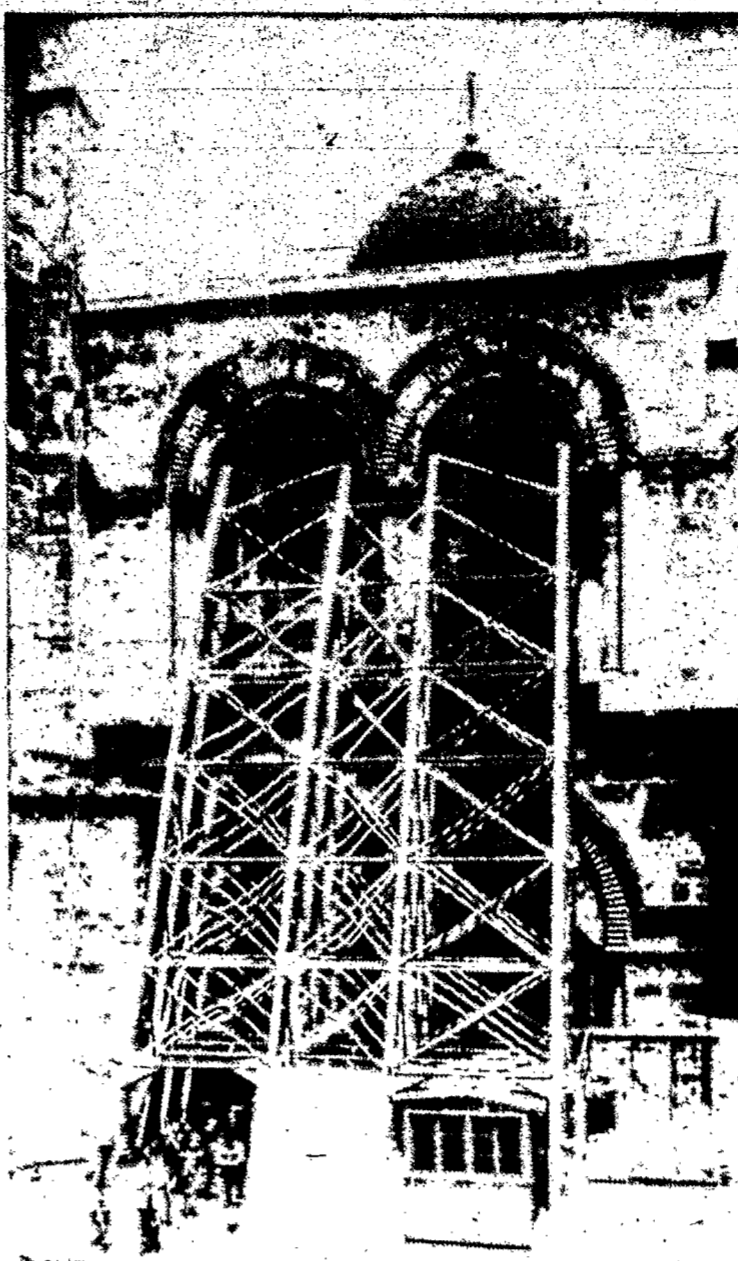
THE CONSTITUTION was promulgated here in the former capital of Syria by U.A.R. President Abdel Gamel Nasser, who earlier served as Egyptian chief of state. It describes the U. A. R. as a "democratic republic, independent and sovereign."

During his visit here President Nasser, along with ex-President Shukri al-Kuwatly of Syria, attended traditional Moslem prayer services at the Mosque of Omar, where both leaders delivered addresses.

Guam Schools Get Free Textbooks

AGUADA, Guam — (NC) — Guam's Governor Robert Barrett Love has signed a bill passed by the Guam Legislature to provide the loan of free textbooks by the government to students of both public and private elementary and high schools. The measure will go into effect on July 1.

Heretofore the loan of free textbooks was provided by the government only for the public schools.



Holy Sepulchre Basilica

Jerusalem — (NC) — Entrance to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre here in the Holy City shows support-work holding part of the building in place. An earthquake in 1927 seriously weakened the structure which surrounds the site of Christ's Resurrection. Restoration work on the historic church will begin after Easter.

FBI Seeks Fake Check Casher

Washington — (NC) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation said here it is seeking a 27-year-old man alleged to have cashed a large number of fraudulent checks, often drawing a check on the National Federation of Catholic College Students' national office here.

The FBI stated that the man's name is Donald Forest Gratz and that his "career of deception" has taken him into 25 states. He is a college student or in the process of becoming one.

Exiled Bishop:

Red China Seeks Wedge Of Conquest

Clinton, Iowa — (NC) — Admission of Red China to the United Nations merely would provide an opening "wedge" in their relentless effort to impose their servile scheme on all nations of the modern world, an exiled bishop said here.

The prelate also took a dim view of the effectiveness of what American news correspondents might accomplish if permitted by the State Department to cover Communist China.

BISHOP HENRY AMBROSE Pinger, 61, a veteran of 30 years as a missionary in China, was banished from his Chowvian diocese in 1956 by the Chinese Reds. Before he was exiled Bishop Pinger was arrested by the Reds, imprisoned and subjected to indignities and brainwashing tactics.

"If a seat in the United Nations was extended to the land of Premier Chou En-lai, it would obviously benefit the Red-ruled Chinese regime," the Bishop said. "Such an action on our part would merely provide a wedge to an implacable foe of western civilization."

U.S.-Trained Chinese Nun Formosan Girls' Leader

Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — An American trained Chinese Benedictine Sister here has demonstrated how a nucleus of Catholic students at a public high school can prove a real heaven in the school community.

Sister Barbara Marie Jou teaches at the Provincial Girls' High School in Taipei. She has organized the Catholic students at the school into an association aimed at the spiritual formation of the girls. Emphasis is placed on the apostolate and good results have been achieved.

OF THE 130 Catholic students enrolled at the Girls' High, 70 were converted while at the school. Almost invariably the first contact, the instrument of conversion, was one or more of the original 61 Catholic students. Last year's graduation class included 20 Catholics, of whom 14 were baptized while at the high school.

SISTER BARBARA is a graduate of the former Catholic University of Peking. Entering the Benedictine Sisters, she was sent to St. Joseph's Altus, in 1948 for further study and training. She returned to Formosa in 1953, joining the group of American Benedictine Sisters from St. Joseph who teach at various state universities here.

• DOWNTOWN

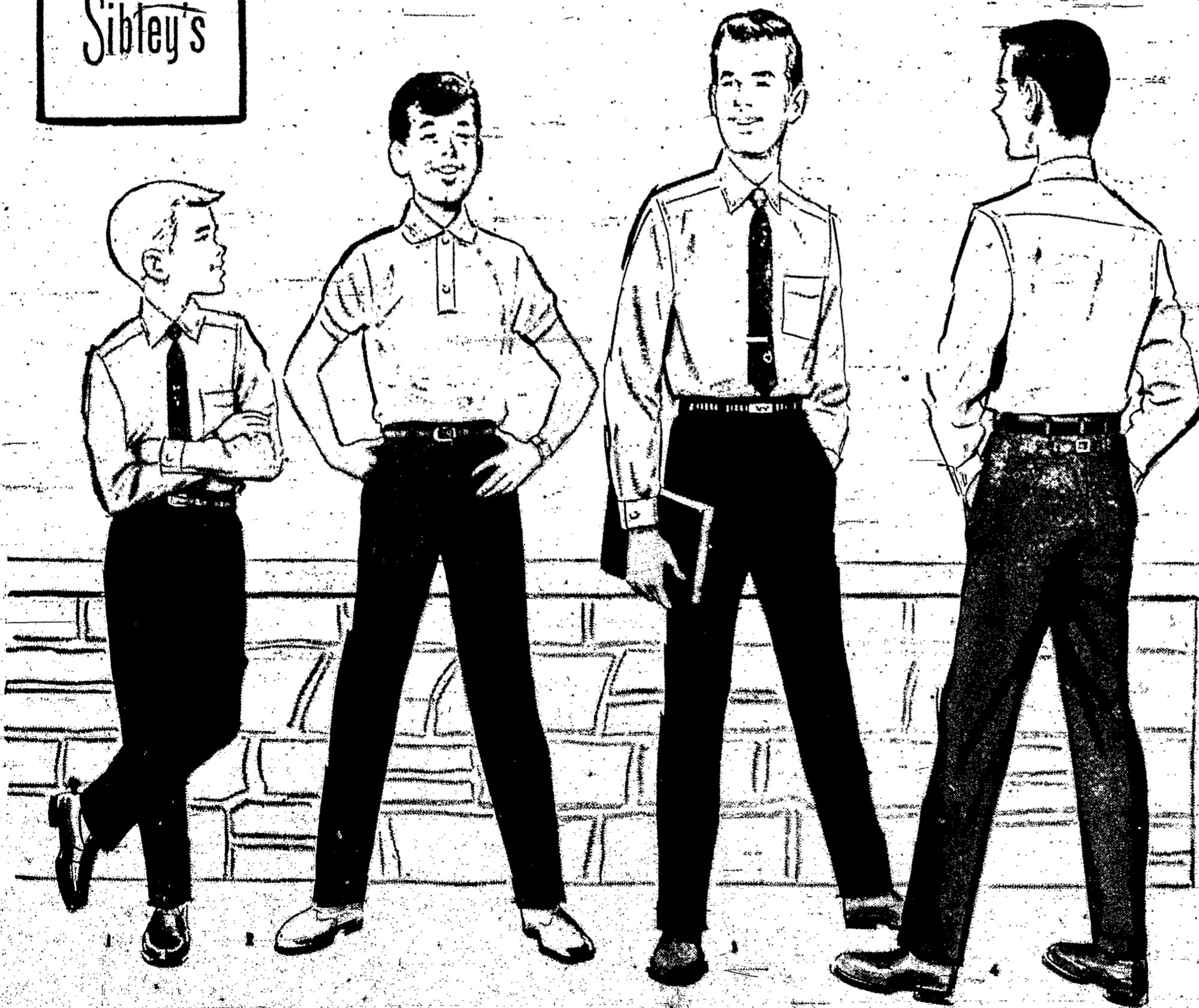
• EASTWAY

• IRONDEQUOIT

• SOUTHTOWN

• NEWARK

IF HE GOES IN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, WE AIM TO PLEASE!



A fellow rebel on A-plus in appearance when he wears slacks from Sibley's. Their Ivy style puts him at the head of the class. And mixed with dress and sports shirts, these slacks are right for almost any occasion. Several are of fabric that dries with little or no ironing, ready in a jiffy to wear again. Sibley's Boys' Department, Third Floor, Irondequoit, Eastway, Southtown and Newark.

1. Wash 'n' wear slacks of Dacron and cotton in brown, navy or charcoal. Sizes 6 to 12, 7.99. Drip dry Dacron and cotton slacks in white, blue, or tan. 6 to 20, 3.99.

2. For school or play, polished cotton slacks in trim Ivy stripes. Olive or khaki, in sizes 6 to 12, 3.99. Sizes 27 to 32, 4.99. Short-sleeved knit shirt in white, tan, sea, or blue. Sizes 6 to 20, 2.99.

3. Dacron-keen slacks, washable and long-wearing. Brown, navy, or charcoal in sizes 6 to 12, 4.99. Sizes 27 to 32, 6.99. Arrow's button-down oxford shirt, sizes 6 to 12, 4.25. Sizes 13 to 14 1/2, 5.99.

4. School or dress slacks of Sanforlon, wool and nylon. Charcoal grey, oxford, navy, or brown. Sizes 6 to 12, 7.99. 27 to 32, 10.99. Arrow broadcloth shirt with link cuffs. Sizes 6 to 12, 2.99. 13 to 14 1/2, 3.99.

WRITE OR PHONE HAMILTON 6-4000—ORDER DEPARTMENT OPEN AT 9 A.M.