



'fat city' — by donald lambro

Population facts minus hype

WASHINGTON — The overpopulation people are back in the news again, forecasting famines, pestilence and other global catastrophes unless radical birth-control measures are inflicted upon poor Third World nations.

The groups that make these doomsday predictions blame higher population for virtually every ill that afflicts the world — poverty, hunger, disease, pollution, unemployment and crime. Strangely enough, population growth is largely seen as a problem in Third World countries, not in the industrialized nations, where the overpopulation critics reside.

The latest forecast of a population Armageddon comes from the World Bank. In its Annual World Development Report, it expresses the fear that 10 billion people will populate the earth by the year 2050, causing a host of insoluble social and environmental problems. Permit me a few observations:

First, the world's population tends to get terribly exaggerated in terms of how much land there really is on this planet.

Last year, Hoover Institution economist Thomas Sowell figured that all of the earth's 4.4 billion people would fit in the state of Texas — with all of them living in typical middle-class, one-story, single-family homes, four persons to a house, each with a front and backyard.

The world's population has since grown to about 4.8 billion people, so Sowell's imaginary construction would now have to include a little spillover into Oklahoma. Nevertheless, this is a stunning statistic, and it puts the world's population into a more rational light.

The point is that the world is not elbow-to-elbow with people. It only looks that way to the population planners because they see dense concentrations of people in the cities. Obviously, this is where a lot of people live, because it is where the economic opportunities are.

But what about the assertion that as world population grows, poverty and hunger are the inevitable result? World Bank President A.W. Clausen insists that higher population "means lower living standards for hundreds of millions of people."

The truth is that the degree of poverty in a country has nothing to do with its population density or the amount of its resources. It does have a lot to do with that country's economic system and how free it is.

Take Japan, for instance. It is one of the most prosperous nations on earth, but it has many more people per square mile than India, which is one of the world's poorest countries.

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Or, take Singapore. It has a population density of more than 10,000 people per square mile, while Ethiopia has 61 people per square mile, roughly the same as the United States. Yet Singapore's per capita income is over 30 times that of Ethiopia.

But what about food production? Are all densely populated countries starving?

Densely populated but well-fed Japan has little arable land, while "overpopulated" India has an enormous land mass, yet India has been plagued by famines. Why?

Part of the answer can be found in a United Nations study which found that during the 1970s, per capita food production rose in every region of the world except one: the continent of Africa, whose state-controlled economies, like India's, are among the most heavily regulated and taxed in the world.

It is no coincidence that the world's most prosperous countries are those with the most free and least regulated economies. Asian economies like those of Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan — all densely populated and with little or no natural resources — are classic examples of these.

Next month the United States will send a delegation to a world population conference in Mexico. But for the first time in memory, the U.S. delegation will not be stacked with population planners calling for stringent population-control measures as a tool of economic development.

Instead, the delegation, to be headed by former New York Sen. James L. Buckley, will urge Third World countries to deregulate their economies. Those that do will enjoy a higher standard of living and, eventually, lower population growth as well.

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'what's in a name?' — by ven pitoni

Virtuous Elys from 'eel district'

If you're an Ely, you can take your pick of at least four derivations offered for the surname, which is also written Ealy, Eley, Elie and Ely.

In England it is believed to have originated from the city of Ely in Cambridgeshire, known as the capital of the Fen district, an area of "fens" and lowland marshes lying in the shires of Lincoln, Huntingdon, Cambridge and Norfolk. Sometimes it was called the "eel district."

An ancient cathedral and monastery still stand in Ely on the Isle of Ely, which was an island among the now drained fens.

It was Hereward, the noted English outlaw and patriot, who defended the Isle of Ely against the Normans in the 11th century. He took refuge with his band on the island, from which he was finally driven off by William the Conqueror.

Thus, the name Ely was primarily adopted by English ancestors, first, from the Isle of Ely, traceable to the Old

English root word, "Ael-ig," meaning Eel Island. And from the city of Ely, which was built later on the Isle: with its own special meaning of "the place of willows," from the Cornish British and Welsh "Helig."

The Latin equivalent, "Salix," and Greek "Ealig," signify an island, marsh or peninsula. The Hebrew form "Eli" denotes "the offering or lifting up." And "Elie" is an English form of Elias, which means "Jehovah is my God."

In Greek mythology there's a place assigned to souls after death called Elysium, an exquisitely happy abode also known as the Elysian fields or Paradise.

An early Ely in America was Nathaniel, born in Tenterden, County Kent, England in 1605. Coming to Cambridge, Mass., in 1632, he later helped found the city of Hartford, Conn.

Another pioneer, Richard Ely, a merchant from Hampshire, England, came to Boston in 1660 and later settled in Lyme, Conn.

The heraldic insignia shown here is used by descendants of Joshua Ely of Dunham, Nottinghamshire, England, who settled in New Jersey, about 1685. There is a Pennsylvania branch of this family which descends from Joshua of New Jersey.

The six fleurs-de-lis or heraldic lilies in the shield signify purity or "whiteness of soul." The fess, or band borne in the center, represents the military belt or girdle of honor; and the spearhead in the crest denotes "readiness for military service."

On Nov. 14, 1910, Eugene Ely was not only ready, but also made the first airplane flight from the deck of an American warship in Hampton Roads, Va. Joseph B. Ely, an outstanding member of the Western Massachussets family, became governor of that state.

The motto used with this coat of arms is "Scientia, libertas et virtus," which extolls "knowledge, liberty and virtue."

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Ely

'washington today' — by evans witt

Colorful Cuomo paints new Democratic picture

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York Gov. Mario Cuomo isn't on the national Democratic ticket this year, but he is firing some of the most colorful volleys at Republicans as the fall presidential campaign heats up early.

In his latest rhetorical flourish, Cuomo accused President Reagan of trying to paint Democratic candidates Walter F. Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro as ultraliberals linked to "the worst of the '60s ... people with beards and pipes who have wild lifestyles."

"What Republicans have done is they have gone to labels and shibboleths," Cuomo said in Nashville, Tenn., this week. "Look at their campaign now: 'They are liberals. We are conservatives.'"

Reagan opened a Southern campaign swing last week by adding a new chapter to the long political tradition of trying to paint your opponent as far out on a political extreme while portraying yourself as moderate.

"The national Democratic leadership is going so far left, they've left America," Reagan said in Austin, Texas, on a trip aimed at winning the South from the Democrats.

"I think the current leadership of the Democratic party ... went all the way to San Francisco and then turned left. And they went so far left, they have left the mainstream," he added in Atlanta.

While Mondale simply suggested Reagan was desperate and needed some sleep, Cuomo fired back this week at the National Governors' Association meeting in Nashville in more colorful terms, keeping up the pace he began with his stirring keynote speech at the San Francisco convention.

First, Cuomo painted in bold terms the negative image he says the GOP is trying to tie to the Democratic ticket. He described the Republican strategy this way:



"Call them liberals. Summon up a stereotype — with beards and pipes who have wild lifestyles. Try to bring back the worst of the '60s.' And then Cuomo suggested that

Republicans are ducking the issues.

"God forbid that you should analyze the issues, that you should talk about the deficit, that you should talk about 'Central America,'" Cuomo said at a brief meeting with reporters.

But campaigning along the alleged liberal-conservative fault line is a tricky business, as both Reagan and Mondale should know.

While Reagan has long been the standard-bearer of the Republican right wing, Mondale has toiled long and hard on the liberal side of the Democratic spectrum. That gives both images that are not necessarily helpful.

At the Democratic convention, Mondale took a decidedly moderate tone in his acceptance speech, talking of the party's commitment to defense spending and opposition to new taxes that would hurt business.

But the terms "liberal" and "conservative" may not have the impact they once did in American elections.

To start with, more Americans would tend to call themselves moderates or middle of the road than would say they are conservatives or liberals.

And the links between what "conservative" policies in various areas have become are just as weak as those among the allegedly "liberal" positions.

Just because one is for conservative economic policies, that does not mean one is against abortion, for the death penalty and an advocate of school prayer — all so-called conservative positions on social issues.

Conversely, backing more spending on social programs like welfare and Medicaid does not necessarily imply that one will be a supporter of gun control — a "liberal" position.

Arguments about liberals and conservatives may become an increasingly tired refrain during the next three months of campaigning.

But it is almost certain that Cuomo and his pungent political comments will be a staple of the political dialogue through the campaign and perhaps even to the 1988 presidential race.

essential to life. Not even in arenas of competition with the Soviets.

We do ourselves no favors when we allow rhetoric to replace reality, justifying our involvement on such a basis. We limit our options, too often prolonging involvement at ever increasing cost for reasons that may have less to do with the nation's interests than with the self interest of its leaders.

Further, where we do have interests, as we most definitely still do in Lebanon, they aren't necessarily best served by a show of American force.

On the contrary, that approach can be counterproductive. In Lebanon, the Marine presence exacerbated factional strife, delaying any accommodation among the factions themselves. Which is what is really in the American interest.

Reagan has been known to quote with approval Gen. Douglas MacArthur's dictum on the Korean conflict: "There is no substitute for victory."

In the case of Lebanon, where there was never any possibility of winning his way, he apparently has found one, however. A can't-lose situation he'd much prefer we remembered. It's called Grenada.



'the state of education' — by eugene goll

Model librarian

The state's public library system has close ties to public education, the result of a lifetime of accomplishments and accommodations by the guru of Maryland librarians, Ms. Nettie B. Taylor, Assistant State Superintendent of Schools for Libraries.

Six days a week, tens of thousands of Marylanders use county libraries. Many take out books, read periodicals, or listen to tapes. Others take advantage of special programs such as film offerings or reading programs for children. As one observer noted, however, "Most people don't know where the books come from."

The public has come to expect the varied services that are usually made available at no direct cost to users. Granted, there are sometimes modest fees for such things as fines for overdue books, but for the amount of service offered, libraries may well be one of the best bargains available.

My thanks go to David Sumler who explained how the complicated system works and how Nettie Taylor played a key role in developing it.

Nettie Taylor, through personal relationships, efforts and connections, has put together the complicated network of library services outside the schools.

Dr. Sumler represents the Maryland State Board for Higher Education on the Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries. The higher education people have an interest because in Maryland a person holding a public library card can request a book through inter-library loan that may eventually come from a college library. Two special sources are the libraries of the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Another important source is the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore City, which in 1971 was designated the State Library Resource Center or the central Maryland library collection. Pratt serves as the basis for inter-library loans and is the core of the library network. For this service, Pratt received \$2.8 million in State funds in fiscal year 1983.

There are also three regional collections. One for the Eastern Shore is housed in the Wicomico Public Library in Salisbury. In Western Maryland an inter-library collection is in the public library in Hagerstown. The Tri-County area in Southern Maryland is served by a collection in the Charles County Library at La Plata.

The State Board of Education asked for a new Tri-County facility at Charlotte Hall at its June meeting. The state education board approved a request to have the state provide \$1,800,000 to construct a new place to put the Tri-County collection. There is also the \$3.7 million in the State Department of Education budget, earmarked for public libraries.

During the 1984 legislative session, State School Superintendent David Hornbeck fought to have the state continue paying the full amount of social security payments for county librarians. Such actions are indicative of the interdependence between public education and the public libraries.

So we're not just talking about school libraries when we speak of Nettie Taylor, even though her office is in the State Department of Education. It is she who, through personal relationships, efforts, and connections, has put together the complicated network of library services outside the schools. Many of these arrangements are only understandings and have not been put into regulation form. It would be hard for anyone but Ms. Taylor to hold the complex, yet informal, system together.

Ms. Taylor was recently honored when the American Library Association named her the outstanding professional librarian in the nation.



'news focus' — by don grafi

Remember victories—forget losses

You'd probably rather not at this late date, but let's briefly reconsider the American presence in Lebanon.

For a change, the news out of Beirut is encouraging — at least as of this writing. The reorganized Lebanese army is moving back into the city, reclaiming it from the factional militias.

The long civil war isn't over. But six months after the Marines packed up and pulled out, the beginning of the end may be at hand.

There may be some lessons in this for us.

The American presence, we were told repeatedly from the time the Marines went in in September 1982, was necessitated by "vital interests" — Lebanon's, Israel's, the free world's but especially our very own.

As late as Jan. 11 of this year, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth W.

Dam was spelling them out once again for a dubious Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It was essential to persevere in order to:

— Maintain U.S. influence in "an arena for competition between the United States and the Soviet Union."

— Draw the line for Soviet-advised Syrian troops.

— Assure the security of Israel's northern border.

— Uphold U.S. credibility. "Every regional state, friend and foe alike," Dam warned, "is watching our actions for proof of America's strength and its ability to promote peace."

This only weeks before the president abruptly reversed field and announced he was pulling the battered Marines out.

In the six months since, the Soviet flag hasn't been raised on the

Corniche. The Syrians are where they always were — occupying the northern and western third of Lebanon. Israel's border is secured — by the Israelis. At a considerable cost, to be sure, but then this "solution" to the Lebanon problem was their doing to start with.

As for U.S. credibility, it can't have suffered any lasting damage. Otherwise, how could Ronald Reagan now be telling us that in no time in recent memory has America stood so tall in the world or been such a force for peace?

Unless, of course, he is counting on millions of exceedingly short memories.

OK, now for the lesson part.

As a global superpower, the United States has interests almost everywhere. Not all, however, are truly "vital" — according to Webster,

