

AID Population Control Legislation Set for Congress

On Jan. 4, the opening day of the 95th Congress, Rep. James Scheuer (D-NY) will introduce a resolution to establish a House Select Committee on Population which explicitly endorses policies of de-population and de-industrialization for most of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In a Dec. 23 interview with Scheuer (see full transcript below), the New York City Congressman made it clear that he intends to mobilize Congress around legislating the use of food aid as a weapon. Scheuer's "Select Committee" and analogous activities in the Senate are geared to insuring the easy passage of an Agency for International Development (AID) proposal that Congress adopt a "population impact examination" (PIE) proposal which would limit development aid to countries which reduce their population growth rate. AID — the government's primary conduit for overseas development and food assistance — is asking Congress to adopt the triage policies of William Paddock whose "lifeboat ethic" calls for the elimination of 30 million Mexicans as a starter and whose programs have been adopted by top Carter-advisor George Ball. PIE policy is meant to bludgeon debt-strapped developing nations to either pay Wall Street or face starvation.

The Scheuer Committee

Scheuer announced the formation of an 11-member Select Committee to "investigate the problems caused by a worldwide population explosion" in a press statement scheduled for release on Jan. 1. Here he repeated the long-discredited Malthusian warning that "Population growth threatens the world with famine, environmental degradation, unemployment, overcrowded cities, lawlessness, and the prospect of demographic wars in a world where nuclear weapons are proliferating." Earlier, Scheuer, after returning from a State Department-arranged trip to Africa, charged in an op-ed in the Dec. 23 *New York Times* that U.S. food and development programs for the Third World are compounding the problems of the Third World by "destroying nature's balance."

A "Dear Colleague" letter (reproduced below) is being circulated by Scheuer in the House with the intent of getting the support of at least half of all Congressmen. While Scheuer lists the names of 86 as co-sponsors, all but one of more than a dozen Congressmen or their top aides contacted this week disassociated themselves from co-sponsorship; many stated emphatically that they never endorsed it in the first place. About a half-dozen conservative Congressmen, including Representatives Conte, Kemp, Quie and Anderson, flatly denied ever co-

sponsoring the resolution. Others who expressed similar sentiments were Representatives Wright, Udall, Dellums, Badillo, Clausen and Nix. Rep. John Rhodes (R-Ariz), an alleged co-sponsor, said that the Select Committee was against everything he ever believed in. Leading Congressional Black Caucus members, also listed as co-sponsors, have privately disassociated themselves, with the sole exception of Detroit's Rep. John Conyers, a close ally of Carter, who proudly admitted his "enthusiastic" support.

One Carter insider, a spokesman for the Overseas Development Council, admitted that Scheuer had organized support in a purposely unprincipled and devious manner, buttering up colleagues with "sweet talk" and compiling his co-sponsorship list primarily through word of mouth at meetings and by buttonholing Congressmen in hallways. Moreover, Scheuer's "Dear Colleague" letter, dated Jan. 3, 1977, which will be circulated next week with the names of the 86 alleged co-sponsors attached, was written *after* the so-called endorsements were compiled, according to information received from his aide.

These dishonest practices are not simply the actions of Scheuer himself; they are being carried out in cooperation with the Carter transition team's office with full complicity of Carter's designated Cabinet. In a copy of a page from Rep. Scheuer's appointment book for Dec. 22 and 23 (reproduced below), obtained from independent sources, Scheuer lists scheduled meetings on Dec. 22 with Walter Mondale, followed by a private meeting with Carter transition team member Jule Sugarman who, after being head of New York City's Human Resources Administration, was picked to reorganize Atlanta's welfare system and headed up the Atlanta system during Carter's gubernatorial tenure. On the next day, Scheuer met with Joe Onek, head of the Carter Health Policy Task Force. As his calendar for Dec. 22 demonstrates, all of these individual meetings immediately followed an organizing session with various Rockefeller family-controlled population organizations, including Zero Population Growth and the United Nations Association, convened to map out the nuts and bolts of Scheuer's mobilization in Congress.

McGovern for Triage

In the Senate, Scheuer's activities are being complemented by a group of Senate liberals, including Senators George McGovern (D-SD), Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) and Dick Clark (D-Iowa), who are preparing amendments to PL-480, the AID-administered "Food for

Peace" program, which incorporate triage. When reached for comment, an aide to Sen. McGovern told a reporter that McGovern's office was currently debating whether or not McGovern would "come out openly for triage."

Simultaneously, Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy will introduce a bill which will grant "amnesty" to all so-called illegal Mexicans who can prove that they have been living in the U.S. for three or more years. All others will be rounded up and shipped back to Mexico, and aide to Senator Kennedy explained.

The movement against "illegal immigrants", heavily played up in the press this past week, is simply another side to population control. Already H.R. 981, an immigration bill introduced by Peter Rodino (D-NJ), has passed both Houses and was reluctantly signed by President Ford on Oct. 20, Zero Population Growth's National Reporter reports. The bill establishes revised quotas for the Western hemisphere, specifically reducing the number of available visas for Mexicans from 42,000 to 20,000 — a more than 50 per cent reduction. Another new

law, H. R. 14535, will not allow an illegal alien mother to benefit by her child's U.S. citizenship until the child is 20 years of age and able to petition to legally have its mother enter the United States.

In tandem, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) recommends "a comprehensive and coordinated" evaluation of U.S. immigration policy in a new report titled "Immigration — Need to Reassess U. S. Policy," according to the *National Reporter*. The Department of State concurred with the GAO's findings and elaborated on the need for such a reassessment by stating "it is now almost thirty years since the last systematic study of United States immigration policy and procedures was conducted." Tying immigration to population policy, the State Department spokesman commented that "international movement of people for both temporary and permanent purposes, both legally and illegally, has become a major international issues and, with the continuing rapid and largely uncontrolled growth in the world's population, will become an increasingly critical one."

An Interview with James Scheuer

Dec. 29 — The following is an interview held this week with Representative James Scheuer (D-N. Y.)

Q: What made you decide to take your recent trip to Africa and to review the problem of population control?

Scheuer: With the exception of the Ivory Coast, the underdeveloped world has malnutrition, disease, a lack of jobs. A decade ago they were food exporters, not now. The population growth has doubled in 18-20 years. This dooms all other programs to failure. They can't double food production and facilities. It is a desperate and tragic treadmill they are on. They are ready to get a handle on this — that is family planning — and some governments are beginning to do it publicly. In Kenya, Kenyatta has a national policy for population planning. Next door in Tanzania they have no policy. But although they have no public policy they have 2,400 rural child-health clinics with contraception facilities and we send packages from the Agency for International Development that cost us \$300 each. They are training hundreds of health workers, though they have no statement of national policy.

Q: Why do they not have a stated national policy?

Scheuer: There are two reasons. First, the health profession is volatile in state politics in the developing world and if a chief executive embraced it and then changed, the next person would wipe out all he had done. The second reason is that although millions of women are desperate to stop producing kids, there are still tribal, religious and cultural reasons against this. So, rather than get the demagogues in a country angry, the leaders are quietly doing it. You couldn't have talked about this a year ago. In Dakar (Senegal —ed.), the President is a Catholic with 8-10 kids and in the last week in October when I was there, AID was setting up the design and

structure of what will be a national family planning program. The Minister of Health is running the program there.

Q: How are these cultural, tribal and religious taboos overcome?

Scheuer: Well the Ford Foundation has a research project; there are two Americans in Accra, Ghana. They are studying the impact on birth rates of the dying out of tribal practices that promoted family planning. In ancient times, the women would leave their husbands when they had a child till they finished breast feeding, or a member of the family would move in and keep the husband away from the wife. As the families moved from the country to the city, there was an increase in birth rates. The guy jumps on his wife the day after she gives birth. So the Ford Foundation is spending a quarter of a million dollars researching this.

Q: How was the opposition of the tribal chiefs broken?

Scheuer: The tribal chiefs who opposed this get bigger representation and bigger amounts of money. They are now coopted into family planning. They get orientation sessions. We tell them that the development programs will fail without family planning.

Q: What about the opposition of religious groups?

Scheuer: The chiefs' reservations have diminished. The church — well much of the family planning is done through the Catholic and Protestant missions. In Tanzania, in Dar Es Salaam, an American sister of the Tarrytown Order of Maryknoll showed me a batik factory, then said to me, "This is not my real work; I run family-planning clinics, I give out IUDs, condoms, pills. You don't think any of us around here believe that old stuff do you?"