

Analytic seminar on growth management

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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ANALYTIC SEMINAR ON GROWTH MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 25, 1977, HONOLULU, HAWAII

POPULATION

GOOD AFTERNOON, _____

I WANT TO THANK MR. HUBERT KIMURA FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS ANALYTIC SEMINAR ON GROWTH MANAGEMENT.

POPULATION GROWTH, AS WE ALL ARE AWARE, HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF MAJOR CONCERN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND, JUSTIFIABLY, IT HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO HAWAII, WHICH HAS SPECIAL PROBLEMS AS AN ISLAND-STATE WITH LIMITED RESOURCES.

TO ITS CREDIT, CONGRESS HAS REALIZED THE URGENCY OF THE POPULATION ISSUE, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM IT; AND IT HAS FORMED THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON POPULATION THIS SESSION.

ALTHOUGH THE POPULATION QUESTION HAS BEEN COVERED PERIPHERALLY BY OTHER COMMITTEES IN CONGRESS, THERE HAS BEEN NO COORDINATED EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THE NUMEROUS RELATED AREAS AND ISSUE. IT WAS HOPED THIS SELECT COMMITTEE WOULD BE ABLE TO FULLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

THE COMMITTEE, OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER, INCLUDES 16 MEMBERS.

ITS WORK COVERS A WIDE SCOPE. AMONG THIS IS COLLECTING FACTS ON BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND CURRENT POPULATION GROWTH RATES WITH PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS FOR OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IT WOULD STUDY THE CAUSE OF POPULATION CHANGE AND THE EFFECT POPULATION CHANGE WOULD HAVE ON COUNTLESS SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS, WHICH I'M SURE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH. THESE ARE PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY AND WHICH WILL BE MAGNIFIED A THOUSAND-FOLD IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE DURING THIS GENERATION. THEY

INCLUDE THE DEPLETION OF FOOD RESOURCES AND NONRENEWABLE RESOURCES SUCH AS ENERGY; POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION; AND THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES.

DIRECTLY RELATED TO THIS, THE COMMITTEE WOULD STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THESE FACTORS ON THE ENJOYMENT OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNAL STABILITY, SOCIAL ORDER AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS AMONG NEIGHBORS.

IT WOULD STUDY THE STATUS OF RESEARCH ON HUMAN REPRODUCTION AND CONTRACEPTION, AND THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON POPULATION PLANNING ADOPTED BY NATIONS.

FINALLY, BUT, I BELIEVE MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE COMMITTEE WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WAYS IN WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT CAN MORE SUCCESSFULLY AND SENSIBLY RESPOND TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POPULATION CONCERNS.

TO CARRY OUT ITS INVESTIGATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES, THE COMMITTEE PLANS TO DISTRIBUTE RESPONSIBILITY AMONG FOUR TASK FORCES, WITH FOUR MEMBERS PER TASK FORCE.

ONE TASK FORCE WOULD STUDY POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, ASSESSING CURRENT POPULATION TRENDS, HOW GOVERNMENTS ARE OR ARE NOT RESPONDING TO POPULATION PROBLEMS, HOW THE U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS OR IS NOT EFFECTIVE IN HELPING GOVERNMENTS ADDRESS VARIOUS POPULATION-RELATED CONCERNS, AND THEN, OF COURSE, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE.

ANOTHER TASK FORCE WOULD STUDY POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE DEVELOPED WORLD BY ASSESSING CURRENT POPULATION TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, HOW THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS ARE OR NOT RESPONDING TO THEIR

POPULATION PROBLEMS, AND, AGAIN, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE.

THE THIRD TASK FORCE WOULD STUDY CAUSES OF POPULATION CHANGE BY INVESTIGATING FACTORS INFLUENCING FERTILITY LEVELS, SUCH AS SOCIOECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS.

THE FINAL TASK FORCE WOULD STUDY THE CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION CHANGE, LOOKING AT POPULATION GROWTH AND THE CHANGE ON NUMEROUS SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AGAIN, THIS INCLUDES DEPLETION OF FOOD RESOURCES, THE INCREASE IN MALNUTRITION, POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTION, WATER SCARCITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, INFLATION, HOUSING SHORTAGES, UNEMPLOYMENT, OVERCROWDING, DEPLETION OF FINATE RESOURCES SUCH AS ENERGY. THE LIST CAN GO ON AND ON, AS I'M SURE YOU WELL KNOW. HAWAII, ON A SMALL SCALE, ALREADY IS FACING SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND, TO ITS CREDIT, IS ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THEM.

SO MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE HERE AS AN ISLAND-STATE WITH LIMITED RESOURCES AND SPACE WILL BE FACED BY THE REST OF THE NATION BEFORE LONG. HOW WE HANDLE THE PROBLEMS CAN SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES; AND, AS IT HAS PROVEN IN SO MANY OTHER AREAS, I BELIEVE HAWAII CAN BE A MODEL FOR THE NATION TO FOLLOW.

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POPULATION ACTIVITIES, AND--AN AREA OF INTEREST TO HAWAII--IMMIGRANT POLICY.

THE ISSUES ADDRESSED ARE VOLUMINOUS, BUT I BELIEVE YOU CAN SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF THEM, PERHAPS NOT AS MUCH FOR THIS GENERATION AS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND CERTAINLY FOR HAWAII.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION CHANGE ARE ALL-ENCOMPASSING. THEY WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON YOU AND ME, ON YOUR FAMILIES AND MINE, NO MATTER WHERE WE LIVE, NO MATTER WHAT WE DO. THEY WILL AFFECT US ON A VERY BASIC LEVEL, DETERMINING WHETHER WE WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO LIVE, TO WORK, TO SURVIVE; AND WHETHER FUTURE GENERATIONS--OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRANDCHILDREN--WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY WHAT WE DO TODAY.

POPULATION GROWTH IS AN ISSUE WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED AND IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON POPULATION WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVES IT HAS DESCRIBED. SUCCESS COULD MEAN A BETTER FUTURE--A BETTER WORLD--FOR US ALL.

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