

Covert administration support for Global 2000

by Barbara Dreyfuss

A substantial part of the Reagan administration is now in an open conspiracy with the advocates of the Carter Administration's *Global 2000 Report*, the document calling for a reduction of the world's population by two billion by the year 2000. Eight administration officials participated in and effectively endorsed a Sept. 30 conference sponsored by the Population Action Council and Republican Charles Mathias of Maryland, the only senator to hold hearings on the *Global 2000 Report*. The conference was designed to consolidate cooperation between the Reagan administration, Congress, the corporate community and the depopulation networks.

"There is going to be blood," said the population-control expert from the Overseas Development Council. "We are entering a long, dark gloomy night, the horror show people warned about for some time. There was a time maybe ten years ago, when if people had listened, all this could have taken place smoothly. Now there is going to be blood. Five years or so from now there will be a real horror show. I don't like talking about the millions who will die. You would not want to be alive in Africa, South Asia, or Latin America five years from now. Wars, famine, death. . . . It will not be painless," he concluded.

The totally unpublicized Mathias conference was a new step in the *Global 2000* lobby's mobilization vis-à-vis "hold-outs" in Washington and the private sector. Over 40 corporations were invited to attend the meeting, titled "New Corporate Responsibility: Business's Stake in Solving the World's Population Problem." Companies attending included Textron, International Harvester, General Electric, Bell & Howell, and McDonnell Douglas. High-level representatives from the Commerce De-

partment, the NSC, Treasury and State Departments also attended, as did William Draper III, president of the Export-Import Bank.

The Population Action Council's board includes Stewart Mott and Russell Hemenway (head of the National Committee for an Effective Congress, which funds liberal Democratic campaigns); along with the *Global 2000* network inside the administration, they are trying to recycle the idea of population control with conservative rhetoric. "Population stabilization is indispensable to the free market system," the meeting was told by David McDonald, the administration's deputy Special Trade Representative.

"This administration is very oriented to private business so the population lobby is trying to schmooze up to the private businesses and get them interested. Before the discussion was on quality of life. Now it will be on trade. The argument is marketed and packaged better and new people have to be persuaded," declared a researcher for the Alan Guttmacher Institute, one of the major think-tanks for the population reduction advocates.

Private companies are being told that countries with large population growth rates are risky investments.

The chief population analyst for the Overseas Development Council, whose most prominent official is Father Theodore Hesburgh of Notre Dame, admitted that they are now using free enterprise rhetoric to sell their genocide schemes. "The thinking at the State Department is that a pull back of U.S. development assistance can force a major policy shift. What they want to happen is that there will be an overall reduction of lending into the developing sector. The developing sector is being told that no money will come unless you get your house in

order, stabilize the population. They will force developing nations to adjust their development strategy away from the high price-tag infrastructure and heavy industry. . . This will lower growth rates in the developing sector. There will be two tiers in the developing sector, those countries who are viewed by the private sector as lesser risks. These will be the people who make the commitment to readjust their development policies or who have already achieved population stability. Then there will be the basket cases and the ones who may not agree, like India. This is who will get their lending cut. They are being written off."

The organizing of the Reagan administration to back the Global 2000 perspective is the particular job of the Committee for the Year 2000, an elite group of policy makers, many of whom, like former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, were directly responsible for the *Global 2000 Report*. "We will use the different backgrounds of our board members to enlist the support of the Reagan administration," declared a staffer for the Committee. "Reagan is the type of President that if his advisers and people under him support something, he has the reputation for listening to them, especially if it comes from people he knows and trusts. That's our approach to the Reagan administration."

Mathias and population control

Senator Charles Mathias keynoted the Sept. 30 conference. "There is no longer much serious disagreement that the present rates of world population are unsustainable," he told the assembled businessmen and government officials. "It is not inevitable that the present rate of world population growth continue. No group has more at stake or more to contribute to slowing the global population growth than the business community."

Mathias and the Population Action Council then presented their Man of the Month Award to Republican Charles Percy of Illinois, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which oversees foreign aid appropriations. Percy urged strong commitment by the business community to population control measures. "All economic assistance will be for naught," he declared, "unless overpopulation is solved." Percy stated that it was his understanding that the Reagan administration "realizes its responsibility" to push for population control measures in the Third World.

Certainly the administration officials present gave credence to the Senator's claim. One of the most outspoken was, not surprisingly, Meyer Rashish, undersecretary of state for economic affairs, who was the special assistant to George Ball at the State Department in 1965, when Ball did the studies leading to the creation of the population office at State. Rashish also ran a conference as far back as 1953, set up by John D.

Rockefeller III, which was designed to found the environmentalist movement. Rashish told the meeting that overpopulation is indeed a critical issue and if the U.S. doesn't deal with it now, nobody else will.

David McDonald, the deputy Special Trade Representative, spoke, following a presentation by an Illinois Chamber of Commerce representative who told the meeting that his state's farmers were eagerly looking for markets in the Third World. McDonald declared bluntly his "feeling" that countries with high population growth rates would not make good trading partners.

Also at the rostrum was Peter McPherson, the Director of AID, whose appointment to that post was hailed by the Committee for the Year 2000. Population control measures are "an excellent investment," he told the businessmen present. He claimed that countries like South Korea were able to reduce their need for foreign aid by taking steps to limit their population growth.

In the audience were Richard Benedick, who heads the State Department's Office of Population Affairs; Deputy Treasury Secretary Tim McNamar, who heads the administration's Multinational Development Banks task force; Assistant Treasury Secretary Marc Leland, who married into the Rothschild banking family; Secretary of Commerce Ray Waldmann, who worked in Henry Kissinger's State Department; and Alan Lenz of the National Security Council. "There are people in this administration who understand the problem," a spokesman for the Population Action Council noted happily. "Benedick, McPherson, Haig are the key ones."

The corporate leaders attending the conference sat quietly for the most part while these rantings went on. Some were even enthusiastic, which is not surprising, since among the 40 companies represented were some of the corporate backers of the depopulation lobby, including Percy's own family's company Bell and Howell, and Phillip Morris, funder of the World Wildlife Fund's American head Russell Train. The corporate leaders were brought together with the help of the Congressional Clearinghouse for the Future, run by a member of the Club of Rome, the originators of the "limits to growth" doctrine.

Mathias circulated a number of policy papers to the corporate executives, to help drive home the demands for population control. The papers were written at the Congressional Research Service under the direction of Dennis Little, a member of the Institute for the Future, set up by the Club of Rome networks. The papers claimed that overpopulation is a "national security" question, that overpopulation creates riots and instabilities in Third World areas vital for our strategic mineral supplies. Benedick was overheard telling Dennis Little that he was so delighted with the papers he intended to use them to indoctrinate State Department personnel in population control.