

Sen. Hatfield looks for Global 2000 sponsors

by Lonnie Wolfe and Susan Kokinda

The Population Crisis Committee and the Draper Fund—two of the foremost lobbies for population reduction—are now looking for co-sponsors for Sen. Mark Hatfield's Global Resources, Environment and Population Act of 1981. That bill, like its companion Population Policy Act in the House, would commit the United States to a policy of zero population growth domestically and worldwide, and would establish an executive-level interagency task force to impose zero growth.

The Population Crisis Committee has already found four Senators to back the bill: Republicans Charles Mathias (Maryland) and Slade Gorton (Washington) and Democrats Alan Cranston (California), the minority whip, and Spark Matsunaga (Hawaii).

"These guys were easy," said an aide to Hatfield, "All naturals. Now it gets a little harder."

According to Hatfield's aide, the Senator's bill has the backing of Alexander Haig's State Department. High-ranking officials at State have informed the lobbyists that they should say that the bill is the implementation of paragraph 20 of the Ottawa summit communiqué. That paragraph commits the seven industrial nations participating in the summit to explore ways to stabilize population and deal with problems of population growth. Since President Reagan endorsed the communiqué, Hatfield's aides can thus imply that their legislation has de facto presidential support.

Hatfield has drafted a "Dear Colleague" letter on the bill and has spoken to several Senators, while his aides have spoken to dozens of their fellow aides.

Democratic Senators Ted Kennedy and Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, Chris Dodd of Connecticut, and Bill Bradley of New Jersey have all given their tentative assent to co-sponsor the bill; all have signed support letters for the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*. New York Democrat Pat Moynihan is also said to be willing to come on board.

On the Republican side, Jesse Helms of South Carolina, a prominent spokesman of the so-called right-to-life lobby, has given a favorable response, although Hatfield's people do not necessarily expect him to sign on. Helms views the legislation as a way to shut off the flow of immigrants into the United States, and "as long as we don't propose to kill any fetuses, he won't make trouble,

and may even help some." Barry Goldwater of Arizona has been neutral, but the lobbyists are hopeful. "He is so senile, that we may nab him," said a Hatfield aide. Both Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch of Utah are said to be favorable to the legislation, but have thus far refused to sign for fear of adverse reaction.

The lobbyists report only one totally negative reaction: that was from Paul Laxalt of Nevada, a close friend of President Reagan. "Laxalt said things about the *Global 2000 Report* being genocidal garbage," a lobbyist reported. An aide to Hatfield admitted that Laxalt could become a problem, if he voices opposition. "We are hopeful that other developments might keep Laxalt's mouth shut. He has some very unsavory connections."

Eventually, Hatfield plans to talk with President Reagan about the population issue. Reagan is not hostile, an aide to the Senator claimed, just uninformed. More importantly, the aide pointed out that the White House must play ball with Hatfield if it wants to get its economic program through Congress. "We have a lot of chips on our side," said the aide. "It is a question of when to deploy them."

Hatfield announced his bill at an innocuous-looking Capitol Hill reception on Oct. 26, hosted by the Population Crisis Committee/Draper Fund, the National Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society, and Zero Population Growth, Inc.

The legislation, S. 1771, would establish an Interagency Council on Global Resources, Environment, and Population. The Council, said the Oregon Republican, "would be mandated to develop a national population policy. This policy would include a declaration encouraging national population stabilization in the long term." The Council would review existing laws, regulations, and programs in order to recommend that the President or Congress modify or eliminate programs "which limit the achievement or implementation of the policies and purposes of this Act."

Amid the muffled clinking of glasses, Hatfield's House co-sponsor Democrat John Seiberling of Ohio decried the fact that 700,000 people had been born the week of the Cancún conference. The National Wildlife Federation's David Burwell warned, "If there is to be a place for wildlife in this world, then we must control population." State Department population expert Thomas Ferguson, who suggests the elimination of women of child-bearing age, calmly picked at the hors d'oeuvres.

Hatfield, an early Republican opponent of the Vietnam War, now finds himself in the company of its authors: PCC/Draper Fund directors William Westmoreland, Maxwell Taylor, and Robert McNamara. The Senator went so far as to praise the National Security Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Population Policy, neglecting to mention its author, Henry Kissinger.