

put pressure on each other. Now that is democracy in a sense, but ultimately it's a very coercive democracy. . . .

Q: Do you consider yourself a Malthusian on these questions?

A: Well, if I had to answer yes or no, I would certainly answer "yes." Because I think Malthus essentially had the correct idea. . . .

Q: What do you know about this report by the Council on Environmental Quality, called Global 2000?

A: Well, we kept in touch with that, we know some of the people who are producing that and we were extremely pleased with the final report. We think it's an excellent report . . . very hard-hitting, beautifully done, with adequate backup. We should be proud that a government report is so good.

Tanton: 'Malthusianism is a fine term'

The EIR conducted the following interview on Aug. 29 with John C. Tanton, the founder and chairman of FAIR, the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

Q: Who works with you on the FAIR board?

A: Well, there are five. Paddock I suppose is the best known. Another fellow is Sidney Swensrud, who's been

the president of Gulf Oil for a number of years and has been interested in the population problem for 40 or 50 years. He's worked with Planned Parenthood and the Association for Voluntary Sterilization. Another young lady by the name of Sheri Barnes who was on the Zero Population Growth board with me and on the Planned Parenthood staff for a while.

Q: Have you worked with the Club of Rome?

A: No, we really haven't—although I happen to be a member of the U.S. Club of Rome.

Q: Well, would you term yourself a Malthusian?

A: Well, I think that's a fine term, and I do believe that there is a disparity between the rate of population increase and the rate of substances that support it.

Q: Let me ask you about the situation developing in East Africa, where I understand there's very severe famine at this point and drought. Do you advocate sending in relief in that situation?

A: Well, that's between the rock and the hard spot. I would be willing to send some relief, but I think that in the long term, each region is going to have to learn to feed itself, and its population is going to have to be controlled on the basis of the food that can be produced in that area. . . . It's just not possible to solve these problems by sending them enough food to keep them going, because there's more needed the next year and more the year after that.

The patrons and the theory of Parson Malthus?

Thomas Malthus, widely recognized as the father of today's zero population growth movement, was Professor of Political Economy at the College of the British East India Company from 1805 to 1834. As such, he played an important role in shaping Britain's colonial policies and in implementing those policies in India.

Malthus is best known today for his population theory, elaborated in his *Essay on the Principle of Population*, published in 1798. Malthus argued that population tends to increase faster than food production. Therefore, he concluded, famines and plagues—like those which afflicted India under British rule in

the nineteenth century—were nature's way of checking the inevitable tendency toward overpopulation. To avoid such cataclysms in Britain, he stated, the growth of lower-class families must be discouraged through a policy of high food prices and low incomes.

"The power of population is so superior to the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race. The vices of mankind are active and able ministers of depopulation. . . . But should they fail in this war of extermination, sickly seasons, epidemics, pestilence, and plague advance in terrific array, and sweep off their thousands and ten thousands. Should success be still incomplete, gigantic inevitable famine stalks in the rear . . . and with one mighty blow, levels the population. . . .

"Must it not then be acknowledged . . . that the superior power of population is repressed, and the actual population kept equal to the means of subsistence by misery and vice" [first edition, *Essay on the Principle of Population*, Chapter 1].