



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Numbers are – and always have been – a powerful part of any discussion of population growth. Yet sometimes it's much more effective to get the point across about the real impact of population numbers by putting the issue in a context people can more easily comprehend.

Over the years I have found that in personal conversations, citing a standard statistic such as "The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that we add 250,000 people to our nation's population each month" is traditionally met with a nod of concern.

However, the statement that would get people thinking more clearly is: "The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that America grows by 250,000 people – an amount equal to the population of St. Petersburg, Florida or Ft. Wayne, Indiana – each month." They understand that you are talking about huge numbers of people who will need all of the amenities of a major city.

I bring this up because in the coming months, as we work with members of Congress to create a U.S. Commission on Population Growth, it's not enough to simply state that America's population will soar to 450 million people by 2050. Our legislators live in a world where they are used to dealing with figures in the billions and trillions. Thus, a million –

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BUILDING A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

Great movements often start small. Yet, with the commitment and tenacity of growing waves of people who believe in the cause, they grow to become a powerful force. Such is the case with the environmental movement which hardly existed 50 years ago but today plays an influential role in driving many aspects of national and international policy.

In recent weeks Negative Population Growth has contacted each member of Congress asking them to sponsor and help advance legislation that will create a long-overdue U.S. Commission on Population Growth. It is the first step toward a responsible National Population Policy.

In writing to our nation's lawmakers, NPG President Don Mann noted, "The role of this Commission would be very simple and direct – to gather critical information and provide needed direction to the White House, Congress and other national policymakers in order to thoroughly address the myriad issues affected by population growth." He also noted that in 1970 Congress took action to create a similar Commission which was chaired by David Rockefeller and issued an invaluable report that unfortunately got caught up in the political controversies of the day and never received the White House backing it needed to make a major impact.

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A FRIEND IN THE WHITE HOUSE?

NPG cheers President Obama's appointment of Dr. John Holdren as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the Office of Science and Technology in the White House. Dr. Holdren comes to his post directly from his stint as Director of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where he also served as Professor of Environmental Policy and Director of Programs in Science, Technology and Public Policy. He is also Director of the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, MA. For decades, Dr. Holdren has been an outspoken advocate of getting our nation's



population under control and we have been in touch with his office seeking his cooperation in our efforts to get Congress to create a U.S Commission on Population Growth. It would be great to have the President on our side in this fight!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(Continued from page 1)*

dollars or people – might not seem like very much. So to make the case that our nation is ill-prepared for an additional 150 million people, perhaps the best way to get their attention is to assert that we are talking about taking on population totals that are the equivalent of adding more than four new California's, or twelve new Pennsylvania's, or twenty-eight Minnesota's.

Is our nation really ready to accept such huge growth in the next 41 years – complete with the economic, social and environmental problems that will accompany it? The answer is a resounding “NO.” Yet, unfortunately too many of our elected leaders are willing to ignore this growing problem – rather than confront it. They know that to halt and reverse America's population before it becomes so totally unmanageable will involve many tough political decisions.

Recognizing this fact now underscores that we really have a dual task ahead of us.

First, each and every NPG member must pledge today to get involved in helping convince their Members of Congress to fight for making a U.S. Commission on Population Growth a reality. Then, we must make clear to our elected leaders at all levels that the population issue – complete with its tough decisions – is not another “third rail” of American politics like Social Security where doing nothing and hoping for the best will only lead to disaster.

Just like Americans are getting angry about the out-of-control spending going on in Washington, D.C. that will burden future generations with massive debt, they are also not ready to destroy the quality of life for their children and grandchildren and leave them an overpopulated nation. The political leaders who recognize that it is time to get out in front on this issue will definitely reap rich, political rewards.

GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT *(Continued from page 1)*

To build citizen support for this important measure NPG will soon launch a campaign where each of our thousands of members and supporters will receive three pre-addressed postcards in the mail with the request that they sign and return them to their U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative. The postcards will notify the legislators of constituent support for a U.S. Commission on Population Growth and ask them to help make it a reality. We hope to drive thousands of postcards to Capitol Hill to bring attention to the immediate need to get this legislation created and moving through Congress.

In addition, in the coming weeks we are going to be aggressive in reaching out to thousands of like-minded environmental/social organizations – national, state and local – to ask them to endorse a U.S. Commission on Population Growth. It is our hope that they will also make passage of this measure part of their legislative agenda and rally their members to raise their voices in support, thus building an even larger



national grassroots movement. As these groups sign onto the fight, NPG will run ads in targeted Capitol Hill publications to highlight the growing widespread support from all across the country.

NPG does not have the funds to invest in hiring expensive lobbyists to push this measure in each individual legislator's office. That is why we are relying on people power.

Numbers count on Capitol Hill. Thankfully there are many members of Congress who are responsive to their constituents. We hope we can count on all of our members and supporters to join in this project.

AMNESTY/CITIZEN LEGISLATION DELAYED

Protracted debate over health care on Capitol Hill has delayed plans for Congress to take up immigration reform legislation that will contain provisions for amnesty/citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants. Originally promised for this fall, there is speculation that this issue may even be moved to the beginning of next year. A recent press release from Senator Schumer's office noted that the Senate is expected to act before the House on this issue, and that reform advocates who are eagerly awaiting action on this topic expect President Obama to sign a bill by the spring. NPG recently forwarded Congressional Petitions to its members and supporters urging them to make their sentiments on opposing amnesty/citizenship for illegal immigrants clear to their U.S. Senators and Congressmen. If you have not returned your signed Petitions, please do so today.

STUDENTS MAKE OUR CASE TO CONGRESS

Dear Congress...

Getting America's young people involved in the battle for a smaller, truly sustainable, population is crucial to the success of our efforts. In recent years, NPG has established a number of educational outreach campaigns, a scholarship program and a student poster contest, that have helped put the population problem front and center in classroom discussions and individual study.



This year we decided to use our NPG scholarship competition as both an educational exercise and grassroots tool by asking students to "Write a letter to their Congressman explaining that the United States simply has TOO MANY PEOPLE and requesting them to work to reverse this problem by helping to create a U.S. Commission on Population Growth."

We received more than 2,000 scholarship entries. Once they were judged they were forwarded to hundreds of individual Congressional offices to alert Members of Congress that today's generation of students is very attuned to this issue and concerned about the world they will inhabit in future decades.

In the coming months NPG will make the final decision on the topic for our 2010 Scholarship Contest. In addition, we are hoping to launch a new Student Poster Contest and perhaps initiate an Annual Multi-Media Competition whereby students will be asked to create 30 or 60 second videos which can be put on the internet to help spread the message of the important need for more young people to get involved in the fight to halt and reverse America's population growth.

NPG contributions will help fund our future Scholarship Contest and other student outreach programs. Please consider returning a generous contribution today.

NPG EDUCATIONAL PACKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Education is at the heart of NPG's mission. We go to great lengths to make sure that well-researched and easy-to-understand information is readily available to all who seek to learn about the catastrophic effects of overpopulation on our economy, environment, and quality of life. Our NPG website – www.npg.org – is accessed by tens of thousands of individuals each month. Recently, we have also put together updated *NPG Educational Packets* that we will gladly send to a local school or library of your choice. These packets contain an assortment of valuable material from our archives that often includes books, posters, NPG Forum Papers and other population-related material. If you would like to have us forward an *NPG Educational Packet* to a school or library, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed response form.

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2009 NPG Scholarship Contest and share some of their insights.

- \$2,000:** Mark Azic – *The College of New Jersey*
- \$1,000:** Hillary McMullin – *University of Rochester*
- \$500:** Zachary Al-Nasser – *Georgia Institute of Technology*
- \$500:** Christi Crump – *Morehead State University*
- \$500:** Kristan Middleton – *California Polytechnic State University*
- \$500:** Elizabeth Polster – *Thomas Nelson Community College*

"The overcrowding of the U.S. is obvious in our home state of New Jersey...Our schools are overcrowded, our landscape is the victim of urban sprawl, and our level of pollution is hazardous. You and I witness the problems of overcrowding every day, and we know that action needs to be taken."

—Mark Azic

"A large population...eventually reaches a tipping point where it acts as a hindrance to the prosperity of a nation. I believe that the U.S. population has already breached this tipping point. I am writing in the hopes that you will recognize the danger posed by overpopulation and work to bring this issue to the forefront of national politics."

—Hillary McMullin

"...Continuously high rates of immigration are the reasons for America's population growth rate; without immigration, we would have a negative population growth. Immigration is putting a strain on many aspects of our society, from our education system to its widespread impact on the workforce."

—Zachary Y. Al-Nasser

THE SURVEY SAYS...

Every few months, NPG mails out tens of thousands of *National U.S. Voter Public Opinion Surveys* to gauge citizen sentiment on the population issue. We use the results we receive from throughout the country to build our grassroots campaign to reduce our nation's population growth. In addition, we compile and send the Survey results to all of the U.S. Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill to make sure they understand that the voters are very focused on this issue and have distinct opinions on the actions necessary to rein-in our nation's population numbers.

A sampling of current questions and answers includes the following:

Do you think Congress should act quickly to adopt a national population policy that would put the brakes on our nation's uncontrolled population growth?

YES . . . 90.5%
NO . . . 3%
NOT SURE . . . 6.5%

What do you believe should be our national population target for the United States by the year 2050?

Smaller than today's
307 million . . . 48.5%
Between 307 million and
350 million . . . 46.5%
Between 350 and
450 million . . . 2.0%

What do you think is the most desirable number of immigrants we should allow to come and settle permanently in the U.S. each year?

Less than 1,000,000 . . . 17.5%
Less than 300,000 . . . 18.0%
Less than 200,000 . . . 64.5%

Of the following reasons for stopping and reversing our U.S. population growth, please rate their importance from 1-5 (1 being most important).

Ranked Most Important:
Overwhelming burden on government services and taxpayers
Ranked Second: Deteriorating quality of life
Ranked Third: Impact on the environment

MAKE A BEQUEST TO NPG...

We never had the pleasure of personally meeting Gerald Pearsall but here at NPG he is our latest hero.

I say that because in recent months he thoughtfully left a generous legacy to NPG just as many heroes have done over the years. It was a final gift from an individual who was very committed to our mission and quietly supported us for many years. We honored his generosity with a beautifully inscribed plaque that now hangs in our Alexandria headquarters.

NPG receives no government funds and we operate totally on the financial support provided by a few select grants, bequests from heroes like Mr. Pearsall and the generous contributions of loyal donors who share our commitment to creating a livable nation and world for future generations. If you are interested in including a gift for NPG in your estate, please return the enclosed yellow card included with this mailing or set it aside and forward it at your convenience. We will send you a complimentary copy of the 24-page booklet entitled *Making Your Will: What You Should Know Before You See Your Lawyer*.



**SIGN UP TODAY FOR
 OUR NPG JOURNAL
 AT WWW.NPG.ORG!**

Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.

WHY ARE WE COUNTING PUMPKINS?

At a time when taxpayers are enraged about unnecessary government spending is it really necessary for the U.S. Census Bureau to dedicate the time, energy and effort to research and publicize the "Facts for Features" surrounding more than 25 notable days? This month a check of their website will find almost three pages of Halloween trivia including the number of potential trick or treaters (36 million – up 65,000 from a year ago), the fact that the U.S will harvest 1.1 billion pounds of pumpkins (Illinois leads the states with 496 million pounds of the orange gourd) or that there are 2,011 costume and formal wear rental establishments in the nation. Similar trivial information is available for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, and the Super Bowl, among others. NPG has written to the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, Robert Groves, noting that such research should be left to news organizations and other non-government entities. The focus of the Census Bureau should be limited to its original task – counting people and getting the numbers right!

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