

Tabus rule most human "thought" on the subject of "sex" in the broad sense of the whole bio-psycho-socio-reality of relation-reproduction. Thinksheet #901 tried to lay some groundwork for more honesty on my part in dealing with this dimension of existence, including the political rhetoric thereof wherever this dimension is a factor in "the movements" for freer exercise of the right to be human. The present thinksheet is a meditation on the relation of this right to be human ["quality of life" is a valuational way to speak of this, "C" and "D" on the analytic matrix below] and womb right [various constructs of private and public decisions on continence (=the death of sex cells), contraception (=the probable death of sex cells, no contraceptive being 100% effective), abortion (=the death of fetuses), infant mortality (=the death of infants by exposition, murder, starvation, suffocation, microorganisms), conception, birth, and child-nurture.

1. Womb right is subordinate to the right to be human and is therefore subject to social control in a way the right to be human should not be. To put it another way: Society has no right to structure itself for preferential humanity [some being given more right to be human than others], and has the duty of womb control in the interest of the higher value, viz. precisely this right to be human. But "the private sphere" is involved: Womb right is, in addition to being a public concern and responsibility, a family right and an individual right [a woman's "control of her own biology"]. How adjudicate these values in family, church, and state?

2. Global triage [attritional decisions for the death of population sectors in the interest of life for other population sectors] will soon face our species if we fail to bring population under control, all the talk of "natural" balancing factors notwithstanding. From the standpoint of no modern medicine, most of the people now alive should have died at birth: before the missionaries and others pushed Western medicine 'round the globe, most folks didn't live more than a few minutes or at most, days. We human beings--especially, "the West"--are responsible for this fact, the greatest shock in the history of the biosphere; and at present we are doing almost nothing to exercise this responsibility responsibly, i.e. with responses appropriate to the situation so created.

3. Pregnancy must become a privilege, and I pray for the soon arrival of a technology making this possible--converting "motherhood" from fear to positive motivation, as the negative fear-motivation has proved itself ineffectual in light of changed mores. Working this out societally and jurisprudentially will be a nightmare somewhat less horrendous than the looming nightmare of drift. Christians will have their fare share in voting in the values that will determine social decisions on the right of pregnancy, with the prospect that the decisions will move us toward a more humane, less class-stratified society. [IRONIC SCENARIO: Provide pregnancy-control technology for the lower classes so as to raise their "standard of living," and deny it to the upper classes so as to depress theirs.]

4. "A" can be stated as a formula: standard of living = resources + population....What trade-off scenarios on the matrix?

5. "We are allowing a time bomb to tick while we pile on food to hide it."--NY Demo Rep. Jas. H. Scheuer, OpEd [NYT] 23Dec76. How long can we go on with this permitting of the dumping of babies on the public--more frightening than the dumping of products via Mad Avenue, or the dumping of other wastes [unless nuclear wastes are the exception]? [This essay is fact-packed on the whole subject, with pleas for adequate population-growth-slowing programs of government.]

		RESOURCES	
		physical	spiritual
LIFE-	quantity ["standard of living"]	A	B
	quality	C	D