

1970

RESOLUTION: OVER-POPULATION

Proposition #1: OVER POPULATION IS A BASIC CAUSE OF COMPLEX, INTERRELATED PROBLEMS

Over-population adds to air pollution, water pollution and land pollution; it upsets biological systems. Crowded conditions affect our quality of life by adding tension, traffic and airway jams and congested parks, and by decreasing our wilderness and wildlife, our quiet and our space for hiking and thinking. Population growth is directly related to shortages of minerals, energy sources, water and land, and leads to severe strains on our food resources, housing and school facilities, medical care and public services. Over-population heightens the problems of crime and poverty.

Proposition #2: THE PROBLEM OF OVER-POPULATION IS GETTING WORSE

In the United States, over-population threatens the quality of our lives; in much of the world over-population threatens life itself. At present, the world population is doubling every 37 years. This means that within the lifetime of most of us present, there will be two people competing for the air, space and food that one person now claims as his own.

Proposition #3: THE PROBLEM OF OVER-POPULATION CAN BE OVERCOME

Some European countries have already reached this goal. All that is required is that the average family size be two children. If there are only two children in a family, then the net long-term growth is zero because one child replaces the father and the other child replaces the mother. In the United States, it is that third and fourth child in a family that is causing population growth.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference go on record as supporting a limit of two natural children per family, and

That this Conference urges members of churches to set personal examples by limiting their families to two natural children, and

That this Conference urges advertising and distribution of information of the drastic and imminent dangers of over-population.