

OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL FAMINE!

We are collectively horrified by the ghoulish process of drought and starvation devastating the equatorial belt of Africa. Everyone wants to relieve the problem and stop it from happening again. We all want the hammering images of bald children, bloated bellies, stick-like arms, and fly-covered sores to disappear. Each of us has a solution to the problem. For most it is flying in food, medicine, and clothing: a bandaid for cancer. For others it is expanding agriculture and industry: the planting of more cancer, for it is an already overburdened land. Some are trying to read Mother Nature's message of how we humans must live on Earth if we want to have an Earth worth living on. If we read the message properly and follow its prescription we may someday look back at the 1985 famine and say it was a historical turning point. It may be a message many of us don't want to hear. It will probably shake the foundations of our cherished totems and taboos. We had better listen for the hoofbeats of the coming apocalypse. We humans are the problem and we alone can solve it. If we listen carefully, throw the chains off our fettered minds, and commit ourselves to strong action, then we may be able to turn the tide. Indeed, this could be a wonderful famine

. . . If we learn that deforestation causes the weather and ecology of an area to change radically; that desertification follows deforestation. The island of Crete was once heavily forested with pine and spruce, but during the Venetian rule of the 12th-14th centuries the trees were harvested to build ships to increase the wealth and power of Venice. Crete today is semi-arid, allowing only a few plants — like the hardy olive tree — to grow. The deforestation lesson is one humans have known for centuries, yet it amazes us as it happens today. We do not want to recognize our ineptness in forecasting the devastations we cause. East Africa and Ethiopia are only the latest examples of our madness.

. . . If we stop the massive soil erosion taking place throughout Earth. Because of crop production on marginal lands, overgrazing, monoagriculture, excessive irrigation, over-intensive farming, and deforestation we are clogging our waterways with billions of tons of topsoil. The US government is working to accelerate this process with expansionist programs including crop subsidies, marketing orders, and development loans here and abroad. All nations on Earth cater to immediate human needs without concern for future results. On a recent visit to China I noted the process of terracing further and further up hillsides, moving further and further out into the wilderness to bring every inch of land into production. Everywhere on Earth we are cocking the gun for massive land failure and starvation.

. . . If we can move humanity out of the cave of superstition, ignorance and habit. We cannot continue to put indi-

vidual human lives ahead of the future of Earth. Twits who plead for money or goods for human needs often say, "The cost of millions is worth it if it saves just one human life." In fact some inane expenditures haven't saved one human life, but have played on humanitarians' emotions, in that they are supposed to save hundreds of people. One recent example is the earthquake proofing of all California schools at a cost in 1985 dollars of twenty-five billions. This included areas that have never and probably never will have an earthquake. Yet, in California never has a child died in a school in an earthquake. We must reassess the enormous amount of resources we fritter away on hardened crooks, misbegotten fetuses kept alive with expensive equipment by a senile President, and comatose old folks whose life is spent but whose residue is kept alive by a greedy medical profession. Human life has limits on its value and we must define it. A good starting point for a definition might be that each human must be capable of supporting herself or himself and her or his offspring from the fruits of her or his personal labors.

. . . If we learn to respect the value of tropical belts of rainforests. We cannot continue to rip them asunder at the rate of 27 million acres a year or 50 acres per minute for the sake of a few marginal crops. If present trends continue, Earth's most complex ecological system and its greatest diversity of flora and fauna soon will be gone forever.

. . . If we preserve our wetlands in our bays, deltas, swamps, bogs, waterways, flood plains, and tidal marshes against the ravages of development. Water and wetlands are the cradle of life — the beginning of far reaching food chains. We cannot continue to damn, drain and fill. Our seas cannot continue as the great cleanser for pesticide runoff, sewage, garbage and atomic wastes.

. . . If we convince all environmental organizations that most of their concerns are directly related to human population and that including the population problem in their programs and publications is fundamental to advancing their cause. These organizations discuss habitat destruction, pollution, poaching, monoagriculture and other issues as if they were not related to the human population explosion. Human overpopulation is the principal problem. If we begin to solve it many other problems will disappear. No group involved in environmental problems should publish an issue of their publication without at least one article about population problems.

If governments realize that ecol-

every year. We must find the quality of our lives in ourselves, in others, and in nature; not in more geegaws and electric carving knives. We must stop the ultimate welfare cases, the Inheritors. Queen Elizabeth II epitomizes the Inheritor. She was born into a totally artificial world of the royal household's making. She inherits country estates of thousands of acres of prime land, castles, mansions, art treasures, stocks and assets in many foreign lands. She is given a grand living allowance by the British people; yet she and her family have never earned a dime (sixpence) of their wealth. It was handed to them by a gullible body politic. In the US we allow great family wealth to be passed from Mellon to Mellon and DuPont to DuPont without much complaint. Wealth is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, and the majority of wealth is inherited. According to Lundberg (*The Rich and the Super-Rich*, Lyle Stuart, Inc., NY 1968) one-third of one percent of the families in the US owns 32% of our investment wealth. *Forbes Magazine* reports that the upper 10% of our population reaped 29% of all income in 1969 rising steadily to 33% in 1984. These inheritors too should learn to live by the measure of how much they work.

. . . If we stop listening to the solutions of idiots who for reasons of revelation, visions or sacred text tell us to do the opposite of what is needed. The Jerry Falwells, recent popes, leaders like Mao Ze Dung, and fuzzy headed politicians like RR have promoted human breeding and tried to stop efforts to alleviate the population problem. It's irksome to see Catholic priests bleating on TV about OUR crime of allowing people of Africa, Asia and Latin America to starve when we have so much. It seems the prophets of unrestricted population growth are deliberately creating a problem so they can rush in to demonstrate their leper licking talents ministering to the dying bags of bones who are desperate for food and medicine. If we follow their advice and save the starving millions, we set the stage for greater catastrophe. Religious leaders are not the only false prophets; Mao preached that a high birth rate was to be the salvation of China. It is not well known because the Chinese are secretive about it, but we think several million Chinese starved when their breeding policy combined with drought to cause famine. Their current severe birth control program is a necessity. Those who promote human breeding are the arch villains of famine past, present and future.

If all nations stop the insane in-



... If governments realize that accelerated development always means ecological deterioration. Development will create a wasteland populated by masses of humans afflicted by drought, pests, turmoil and famine. The Reagan Administration policy is, "there is no overpopulation only underdevelopment." We must stop the madness of developed nations providing funding for undeveloped nations to rape their resources. We are throwing drowning nations rocks to help them swim.

... If we stop taking the overflow population from overpopulated countries. Accepting their overflow encourages them to maintain high birth rates. We must stop discouraging them from making hard choices which defy religious authorities, taboos or traditions. Taking the overflow population by legal and illegal immigration also accelerates development in our country. Immigrants are among the most prolific breeders on Earth. We cannot solve social and economic problems of Latin America and Asia by degrading our portion of Earth. It will only perpetuate destruction on an international scale.

... If we learn to live more modestly, consuming less resources, and not expect a rise in our standard of living

... If all nations stop the insane jingoistic war preparations which will one day annihilate us all. More than enough has been said on this subject. Two suggestions I add. One, immediately stop all US military aid to countries where it serves primarily to prop up oligarchies consisting of self-serving inheritors. And two, every country reduce their arms budget 10% per year until it is 10% of the current budget and convert the savings to preserving their wildlife and wilderness.

... If we take a realistic look at human sexuality and find ways to change existing patterns. We could encourage changes by promoting the acceptance of homosexuality in theocracies and Third World nations, especially Latin America and Africa. Because it is unacceptable in most nations, they force the homosexual into a marriage and child producing role s/he abhors. Let homosexuals be. We might promote sexual alternatives such as oral and manipulative. People might try it and like it instead of the missionary position. Even occasional use of different types of sexual activity would help to reduce the birth rate somewhat. At least we should begin to have open and candid discussions about these and other methods

and their potential for helping solve the population problem.

. . . If we confine public and private foreign aid to stopping the human population explosion. We should encourage all nations, including our own, to have a negative population growth. At least since World War II the American public has been fed a line of crap about sending foreign subsistence aid along with medical and technological assistance. Yet, the subsistence, medical and technical aid leaves recipients in fine fettle for the thing we all think of when we are well — sex. Usually no education has followed improved nutritional care and medical facilities, and these healthier bodies procreate rapidly. Food with health programs exacerbates population problems. For example, CBS recently reported that 48.5% of Haitian children die before they are five years old. Haiti is grossly overpopulated and is the model of a country headed for ecological disaster. Imagine what would happen if we sent them health care facilities to extend the life span of everyone. It would increase the severity of the coming disaster. Instead we should provide family planning programs, free condoms and THE PILL, abortion hospitals, vasectomy clinics, explicit birth control pamphlets, and birth control classes in all schools at all levels. I suggest that to impress the need on our deluded federal administration we all send a letter to RR demanding that the only foreign aid be birth control aid and enclose a birth control pill, condom, IUD, or diaphragm with the letter. Send one to the pope too.

. . . If we learn to cherish flora and fauna. Every species has a right to exist without the threat of extinction from man. Humans are not the ultimate life form. In all the writings I have read in the popular press about famine in East Africa, not one has mentioned any impact on wilderness or wildlife. If an animal doesn't provide meat, cheese or skins; or flora provide grain or fibers it is considered useless to us. African flora and fauna is disappearing with hardly a whimper from us.

. . . If each of us does what s/he can to stop the population explosion. At present rates eighty million more humans arrive on our planet every year. We should: Limit our procreation to one child per couple. Discourage artificial means of birth production like surrogate mothers, artificial insemination, fertility clinics, test tube births, and all other medical methods of increasing human population. Support birth control groups like Zero Population Growth, Planned Parenthood, National Abortion Rights Action League, and the Population Institute. Inform ourselves about population problems. For example, know that Istanbul has grown from one million to six million people in the past twenty years despite government measures to reduce growth. Know that 98% of Latin Americans are Catholic and 68% of Catholics are Latin American. Know that we are borrowing heavily from a future at the cost of future human misery. The ultimate solution may lie in mass triage where whole human populations are left to die to save Earth from becoming a wasteland. We must convince our government to stop trying to save every birth defect born at enormous cost in money and resources where allowing death would be an act of compassion. We must change our slogan from Save The Children to STOP THE CHILDREN.

. . . And finally, if we stop asking Earth for more and more, and start asking more of ourselves. Then we can say it was a wonderful famine.