

The original documents are located in Box D8, folder “Ford Press Releases - Population, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican leader, U.S. House of Reps.,
re: President's Message on Population Growth and Control.

President Nixon's proposed Commission on Population Growth and the American Future cannot begin work too soon.

President Nixon has said what has needed saying by an American chief executive for many years -- that our planning in relation to population growth has been woefully inadequate, that such planning is vital if we are to improve the quality of life in America, and that family planning service should be made readily available to all women who want it but cannot afford it.

The President's Message on Population Growth is a singular document. It is the first of its kind ever sent to the Congress. It is a document which should excite much thought and careful action. The objectives outlined in the President's Message deserve the full support of the Congress and of the American people.

The President has dramatically set forth the staggering immensity of the problems posed in projections of U.S. and world population growth. He has focused on the key to meeting these problems -- planning. He has also called for action. I subscribe fully to the approach he has outlined.

"Society," the President said, "will not be ready for this growth unless it begins its planning immediately."

I agree, and I therefore urge the Congress to implement as soon as possible legislation establishing the President's proposed Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. I would add that President Nixon is correct in observing that the work of this commission will be as much educational as investigative.

Key portions of the President's Message also deal with administrative actions which President Nixon is taking in advance of any report by the proposed commission.

There is a clear and present need for the President's moves to expand and improve domestic family planning services.

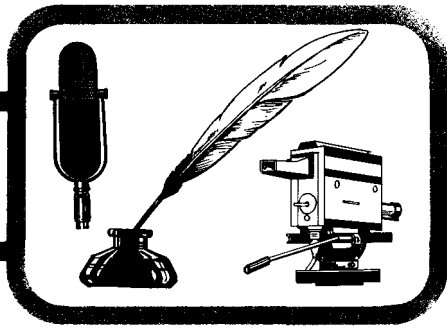
I subscribe whole-heartedly to the President's proposal that we establish as a national goal the providing of adequate family planning services within the next five years for all American women who want them but cannot afford them.

(more)

However, I would also underscore my agreement with the President's pledge that "in no circumstances will the activities associated with our pursuit of this goal be allowed to infringe upon the religious convictions or personal wishes or freedom of any individual, nor will they be allowed to impair the absolute right of all individuals to have such matters of conscience respected by public authorities."

I endorse at this time Health-Education-and-Welfare Secretary Finch's plans to reorganize the major family planning service activities of his department into a separate unit. This plan deserves the support of the Congress.

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