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Summit, N. J.  
May 8, 1964

Editor  
Presbyterian Life  
Witherspoon Building  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

Dear Sir:

The article "Not Enough Room for People", by William Vogt, in the April 15 issue of Presbyterian Life, leads me to wonder: Is God really such a blunderer that he brings into this world more people than he has provided for?

Our real concern is with the misery and suffering brought by poverty. The number of people in the world concerns us only because of the notion, held by Vogt and many others, that the reason people are poor is that there are too many of them for the earth to support.

This argument assumes that all of the usable surface of the earth is being put to its best use. But surely it is well-known that this is not the case. The latifundia of Latin America are infamous. From Southeast Asia to the Caribbean, people excluded from vast estates, that are capable of supporting far more people than they do, are easy prey for Communists and other would-be dictators, with their seldom-fulfilled promises of land reform.

How can we assert that there are too many people, as long as no nation, including our own, comes near to using fully its natural resources? Should we not first inquire why this is so? Should we not ask by what right some men exclude others from using the earth that God gave to all? Should we not reconsider Thomas Jefferson's assertion that "Whenever there is in any country uncultivated lands and unemployed poor, it is clear that the laws of property have been so far extended as to violate natural right."?

We are taught to pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Whatever Heaven may be like, we can be sure that it does not include an institution that permits first-comers to fence in the choicest locations and exclude others, save on their terms. If such an institution is not appropriate for Heaven, can it be appropriate for earth?

When Jesus was asked "What shall we eat? What shall we drink? Wherewithal shall we be clothed?", He did not tell the multitudes to practice birth control; He told them to "seek first the kingdom of God, and His justice".

Dare we impute to God the consequences of man's injustice to one another?

6-1554  
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