



Nehru's Daughter Supports Birth Control Idea In India

By J. C. GILLIAM
Bangalore, South India — Aug. 30 — (P) — Prime Minister Pandi Nehru's demand for an Indian birth control program has received strong support from his only daughter, herself the mother of two children after ten years of marriage.
"Our women just do not have the stamina to bear five, six, or more children," said Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She was commenting on her father's support of birth control as a means of checking India's growing population and solving its problem of recurring food shortage.
Prime Minister Nehru supported family planning and introduction of a planned system of birth control for India, both in his report to the All-India Congress Party conference in Bangalore and as chairman of the commission of India's five year economic plan. "From being a fad of some

few individuals in India," Nehru had said, "this has become one of the important issues before the country and it seems clear that the state must encourage this family planning or birth control."
Black-eyed Indira Gandhi backed her father's stand, especially from the viewpoint of an Indian woman. She predicted, however, that his fight for planned families will not be an easy one.
"There is always the religious orthodox Hindu block to beat down my father on this issue," she said. "There is also this fanatic desire for sons among Indian families."
On the latter question Mrs. Gandhi explained that an Indian wife must produce a son.
"Many of our people still do not like having daughters," she said. "Thus the wife, even if she bears six or seven children must go on bearing if there has been no son. She must produce a son, or produce until she dies."
Mrs. Gandhi says there are many snags to planned families. Artificial contraceptives in In-

dia are almost impossible to get, and only the wealthy can afford them. There is a lack of birth control clinics to educate India's women. Ignorance and fear were the biggest hand-in-hand stumbling blocks to India's family planning. Says she:
"At first our women are frightened to use contraceptives. They do not know what will happen to them. Later, when it is all right, they are happy."
Ignorance on the subject is appalling, she added. To illustrate Mrs. Gandhi stated that as a mar-

ried woman, other women often approached her when she was traveling.
"Very few know who I am," she explained. "They only want to know how long I have been married and how many children I have. When I tell them I have been mar-

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Battalion Editorials

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A Shortage of New Cars?

THERE'S much talk of a new car shortage these days. The National Automobile Dealers Association, which may or may not have anything to gain by a new car shortage, expects a shortage within the next few months.
After a study of car registrations, population, and production records, the association concludes that the expected decrease in car production, increase in demand for transportation by defense workers, and increase in the level of employment will cause the shortage.
The way we look at it, the NADA is right when they say there'll be a shortage of new cars. But it won't be a very noticeable shortage.
With the cutbacks in steel allocations for new cars, with the employment of some auto manufacturing capacity for tanks and guns

instead of cars, and, with the slow (if any) increase in production facilities, a shortage could develop. That is, assuming demand remains constant or increases.
But factors work to reduce demand. One factor is the tough credit restrictions on purchases of cars. Another is higher taxes. Another is the high, and rising cost of living. There are other factors, but these are a few of the main ones.
So, unless wages and income rise at a noticeably quicker rate than taxes and the cost of living can drain off the increase, a shortage of new cars is likely to be scarcely noticeable.

An educator suggests that the average American has forgotten how to read—as if he ever knew.

And Now, Mr. Nehru

NO ONE can blame our State Department with being irritated at the refusal of Nehru's Indian Government to take part in the Japanese Peace Conference. They have sent regrets because they don't like American ideas of how to insure peace and security in the Japanese home area.
Irritation at Nehru's fuzzy attitude is a mild way to put it. Most Americans, frankly, are fed up with the line taken at New Delhi. Nehru makes a great show of being "neutral" as between the Soviet bloc and the West. But he wants Formosa handed over to the Chinese Reds, he wants the Ryukyu and Bon-in Islands returned to a defenseless Japan and he demands that our troops get out of Japan itself. He wants, in other words, a perfect setup by which Communism may take over in Japan. That is being "neutral" against us with a vengeance.
If Nehru were openly pro-Communist, it would not be so hard for the rank and file of Americans to take. He probably doesn't honestly know where his sympathies lie. Certainly he has no idea where the true interests of his own people lie. But the downright maddening aspect of his stand is the bland and even unctious way in which he cloaks his indecision with pretended moral superiority. It is bad enough to find yourself in a fog; it is stupider to make a sacred cow out of that handicap. —(Dallas News.)

Old Cliches For New, Or, New Similes Wanted

By CYNTHIA LOWRY
AP Writer
What this country needs, among other things, is a new set of popular similes, or—to be more exact—a modernization of its comparative clichés.
This thought occurred during a recent conversation when the person under discussion was referred to as "dull as dishwater." Maybe in the old days of homemade soap, dishwater was uninspiring, but I would say that dishwater is about the liveliest thing in my house. It snaps, crackles, pops, revs up mountains of phony foam, gives the washer of dishes an incidental beauty treatment and has taken over the old-fashioned chores of rinsing and drying.
A hasty and incomplete run-through of our fixed phrases—those trite ones which rise irresistibly and effortlessly to the average tongue—indicates that most old favorites just don't stand up under modern living.
Some of them are pretty much without meaning. "Straight as a die" is one of these. I've looked carefully through my desk dictionary and fail to find any definition of "die" or "dice" which would show straightness. "Slick as a whistle" is another. Somebody said that probably comes from the habit of country boys to make whistles out of fresh cut willow wood. These, when stripped of bark, had a slippery, moist feel to them. This I wouldn't know, on account I don't know my willow whistle makers.
Many modern pipe-stems aren't plain; pins aren't particularly neat. Hedge-fences aren't homely in these days of floribunda roses, evergreens and even privet. Old Croesus and his kingly wealth probably wasn't half as rich as a modern industrial executive even after taxes. I know a couple of very unshar judges.
Most of the popular similes constructed around the animal kingdom have been disproved by modern research or we're just assuming things to be true. Who says oxen are dumb? Owls aren't so wise, they just look that way. I've never encountered a tight tick, although I've heard of alcoholic cats and dogs. Beavers don't seem so eager to me, and I'm sure that mice aren't quiet. In these days of exterminators, church mice are rare. I understand that elephant's memory has been vastly overrated, and we have materials which are tougher than its hide.
Larks may sound happy, but a competent psychiatrist undoubtedly could find some sad, maladjusted ones. Swans are graceful while floating, but they are awkward and bad-tempered on land. Bats, I understand, are not completely blind. Rabbits, however, seem to maintain their rating as a fertility comparison, and fleas do jump.
Perhaps we might quietly drop some of our monetary comparisons. Gold is still good, but much of the world has abandoned it as a standard. Exactly how sound, I'd like to ask, is the dollar?

The big news does not always make the headlines.

Bigness is not a crime, even in business, but rascality and fraud are, whether called "trade customs" or something else.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
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