

FOREWORD

To honor the occasion of the retirement of Clyde V. Kiser on December 31, 1970 after nearly forty years of employment with the Milbank Memorial Fund, a conference was held May 5-6, 1971 on the subject *Forty Years of Research in Human Fertility: Retrospect and Prospect*. The round table on this topic included three half-day sessions and was held at the Carnegie International Endowment Center in New York City.

Ten papers were presented at the three sessions and some 28 persons participated. A social hour and dinner, to which a few additional persons were invited, was held the evening of May 5 at the St. Regis-Sheraton Hotel. This volume contains the papers and some of the ensuing discussions presented at the scientific sessions. It also contains, in the Appendix, a record of the program at the Dinner.

The topic *Forty Years of Research in Human Fertility: Retrospect and Prospect* was chosen not only to review the work of the Fund in this field but also to permit critical assessment of the outstanding developments during the past forty years and outlook for the future of research in fertility and family planning. Although the Conference was prompted by the desire to honor the retirement of one who had witnessed and participated in the development of research in population at the Fund for many years it was designed to serve also the broader purposes of assessing the general developments of research in the field and the outlook for the future.

The three "parts" of the present volume correspond to the half-day sessions mentioned above. Part One, devoted to general background, begins with a paper by Clyde V. Kiser on the work of the Milbank Memorial Fund in population since 1928. The opening discussion of

this paper is provided by Miss Dorothy G. Wiehl who was a member of the Fund's staff during 1926-1963. Next, Frank W. Notestein, who helped to initiate the Fund's work in population in 1928, provides some reminiscences about the role of foundations, the Population Association of America, Princeton University and the United Nations in fostering American interest in population problems. Frederick Osborn, former member of the Fund's Board of Directors and Elder Statesman in Demography, provides some comments on this paper. Part one closes with a paper on the role of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, by Frank Lorimer, a former president of the Union. Carmen Miró comments on this paper and describes briefly the development of research on population in Latin America.

Part Two is devoted to outstanding developments in research in fertility and family planning during the past forty years and to outlook for the future. It begins with a paper by Norman B. Ryder on formal measures of fertility. The opening discussion of this paper is by Philip M. Hauser. There are two papers on fertility control. One is Christopher Tietze's analysis of the historical development of measures of prevalence and effectiveness of family planning. The other is Sheldon J. Segal's paper on current and prospective trends of contraceptive technology. Both papers are discussed by Karl A. Smith, Jamaica, currently active in clinical work and family planning survey studies.

The third part, devoted to broader issues, begins with Forrest E. Linder's paper on fertility and family planning in relation to public health. Milos Macura, Director of the Population Division of the United Nations, opens the discussion of Linder's paper. Next Ansley J. Coale summarizes some of the chief methods he and others have developed for the determination of vital rates in the absence of registration data. The opening discussion of this paper is by Dudley Kirk. Then follows a paper by Irene B. Taeuber on fertility diversity and policy. Charles F. Westoff opens the discussion of Taeuber's paper and as Executive Director of the United States Commission on Population Growth and the American Future proceeds with some reflections on population policy in the United States.

It is hoped that the publication of this volume will not only provide a valuable historical record of developments in research in fertility during the past forty years but will also be of assistance to those who will chart the course for future research in this important field.

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