

# Planned Parenthood's Racism

(Information compiled by Life Research Institute, (925) 676 2929. January 2001)

## Facts about Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood:

(Though much quoted herein is old, I will show later that Planned Parenthood today vigorously upholds Sanger's philosophy.)

Margaret Sanger said about her 1939 *Negro Project*, "We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population and the minister is the man who can straighten out the idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."<sup>1</sup>

Clarence Gamble, president of the American Eugenics Research Association, said, "There is a great danger that we will fail because the Negroes think it a plan for extermination. Hence lets appear to let the colored run it as we appear to let [the] south do the conference in Atlanta."<sup>2</sup> Under this policy, Planned Parenthood of America hired a full-time "Negro Consultant" in 1944.<sup>3</sup>

The entire operation [Sanger's 1939 Negro Project] then was a ruse--a manipulative attempt to get Blacks to cooperate in their own elimination.

The project was quite successful. Its genocidal intentions were carefully camouflaged beneath several layers of condescending social-service rhetoric and organizational expertise. . . . Soon clinics throughout the South were distributing contraceptives to Blacks **and Margaret's dream of discouraging "the defective and diseased elements of humanity" from their 'reckless and irresponsible swarming and spawning" was at last being fulfilled.**<sup>4\*</sup>

In a 1926 speech at Vassar, Sanger said the nation needed to follow the "drastic immigration laws" of 1924 with methods "to cut down on the rapid multiplication of the unfit and undesirable at home."<sup>5</sup>

In a March, 1939 letter, Margaret Sanger explained to Frank Boudreau, director of the Milbank Memorial Fund: ". . . That is not asking or suggesting a cradle competition between the intelligent and the ignorant, but a drastic curtailment of the birth rate at the source of the unfit, the diseased and the incompetent . . . . The birth control clinics all over the country are doing their utmost to reach the lower strata [the minorities] of our population . . ."<sup>6</sup>

To stop this "multiplication," Sanger could be harsh. Her book, *The Pivot of Civilization*, has a chapter called "The Cruelty of Charity." In it she blasts as "insidiously injurious" programs to provide "medical and nursing facilities to slum mothers." In other words, Sanger wanted ethnic cleansing. Instead of helping the poor, she considered them (particularly Blacks, Hispanics, and Jewish immigrants) slum dwellers who would soon overrun the boundaries of their slums and contaminate the better elements of society with their inferior genes.

Throughout the 200+ pages of *The Pivot of Civilization* Sanger called for the elimination of human weeds: "for the cessation of charity, for the segregation of morons, misfits, and maladjusted," and for the sterilization of "genetically inferior races."<sup>7</sup> In this same book she argued that organized attempts to help the poor were the "surest sign that our civilization has bred, is breeding, and is perpetuating . . . defectives, delinquents, and dependents."<sup>8</sup>

"Margaret Sanger is responsible, more than anyone else, for keeping alive international racism. She played the attractive hostess for racist thinkers all over the world. Organizing the First World Population Conference in Geneva in 1926, she invited Clarence C. Little, Edward A. East, Henry Pratt Fairchild, and Raymond Pearl--all infamous racists."<sup>9</sup>

"In 1932, it [the *Birth Control Review*] outlined **Margaret's 'Plan for Peace,' calling for coercive sterilization, mandatory segregation, and rehabilitative concentration camps for all 'disgenic stocks.'**<sup>10\*</sup> In 1933, the *Birth Control Review* published 'Eugenic Sterilization: An Urgent Need' by Ernst Rudin, who was Hitler's director of genetic sterilization and a founder of the Nazi Society for Racial Hygiene.<sup>11</sup> And later that same year, it published an article by Leon Whitney entitled, 'Selective Sterilization,' which adamantly praised and defended the Third Reich's racial programs."<sup>12</sup>

Margaret Sanger and former Planned Parenthood President Alan Guttmacher were both listed in 1956 as members of the American Eugenics Society, Inc. Today, Planned Parenthood vigorously supports Margaret Sanger's philosophies:

In 1992, Planned Parenthood's immediate past president, Faye Wattleton, won Planned Parenthood's coveted Margaret Sanger Award. The following is quoted from Planned Parenthood Federation of America's 1992 Annual Report, page 13: "THE PPFA MARGARET SANGER AWARD, **Planned Parenthood's highest honor**,\* was presented in 1992 to former PPFA President Faye Wattleton. Planned Parenthood's national leader from 1978 until March 1992, **Ms. Wattleton exemplified the courage and ideals**\* of Margaret Sanger, PPFA's founder."

Planned Parenthood also has a Margaret Sanger Clinic.

### **The Racism of Planned Parenthood today:**

"A racial analysis of abortion statistics is quite revealing. According to a Health and Human Services Administration report, as many as forty-three percent of all abortions are performed on Blacks and another ten percent on Hispanics.<sup>13</sup> This, despite the fact that Blacks only make up eleven percent of the total U.S. population and Hispanics only about eight percent.<sup>14</sup> A National Academy of Sciences investigation released more conservative--but no less telling--figures: thirty-two percent of all abortions are performed on minority mothers."<sup>15</sup>

"During the 1980s when Planned Parenthood shifted its focus from community-based clinics, it again targeted inner-city minority neighborhoods.<sup>16</sup> Of the more than one hundred school-based clinics that have opened nationwide in the last decade, *none* have been at substantially all-White schools.<sup>17</sup> *None* have been at suburban middle-class schools. **All have been at Black, minority, or ethnic schools.**"<sup>17\*</sup>

Planned Parenthood itself reports<sup>18</sup> that of the 132,314 abortions it did in 1991, 23.2% were on African Americans, 12.5% were on Hispanics, and 7% were on other minorities. Thus, the total abortions on minorities is 42.7%. But minorities comprise only 19.7% of the U.S. population.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, relative to population Planned Parenthood preferred to abort minorities three times<sup>20</sup> as much as whites.

"'There is no way you can escape the implications,' argues Black financial analyst William L. Davis. 'When an organization has a history of racism, when its literature is openly racist, when its goals are self-consciously racial, and when its programs invariably revolve around race, it doesn't take an expert to realize that the organization is indeed *racist*. **Really now, how can anyone believe anything about Planned Parenthood except that it is a hive of elitist bigotry, prejudice, and bias?**'\* Just because the organization has a smattering of minority staffers in key positions does nothing to dispel the plain facts."<sup>21</sup>

Blacks make up 12.1 percent of the U.S. population, but blacks accounted for 35.9 percent of all abortions in 1999, as compared to 31.9 percent in 1990.<sup>22</sup> This is for Planned Parenthood abortions but abortions by others, too.

\* Emphasis by Life Research Institute

Endnotes:

1. Linda Gordon, *Woman's Body, Woman's Right* (New York: Grossman, 1974, 1976) 332-333. Gordon is a feminist and a strong abortion supporter.
2. Ibid, 333.
3. Ibid, 353.
4. Margaret Sanger, *The Pivot of Civilization* (New York: Brentano's, 1922) 108.
5. Margaret Sanger, "The Function of Sterilization," speech delivered at Vassar College, August 5, 1926. Described in Chase, Allan, *The Legacy of Malthus*, (New York: 1977), 658.
6. Gordon, 359.
7. Margaret Sanger, *The Pivot of Civilization*, 264.
8. Elasa Drogin, *Margaret Sanger, Father of Modern Society* (New Hope KY: CUL Publications, 1980) 45.
9. Drogin, 109.
10. *Birth Control Review*, April, 1932, 107; See Elasa Drogin, *Margaret Sanger: Father of Modern Society* (1986), 11-38.

11. *Birth Control Review*, April, 1933, 102.
12. *Birth Control Review*, 17:4, 1933, 85.
13. Allan Chase, *The Legacy of Malthus: The Social Costs of the New Scientific Racism* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977) 411.
14. A.L. Thornton, "U.S. Statistical Survey: A Reanalysis of the 1980 Census Figures for Population Distribution and Composition," *Demographics Today*, March, 1983, 62.
15. Allan Chase, 411.
16. Although Planned Parenthood is a primary instigator in the School-Based Clinic movement, only rarely does an affiliate become institutionally involved in their day to day operation.
17. Carl R. de Vries, Benjamin Goldstein, and Linda Evankirov, *Teen Pregnancy: Crisis, Solution, and Opposition* (Boston: Educational Software Information Group, 1987), 14; and Roberta Weiner, *Teen Pregnancy: Impact on the Schools* (Alexandria, VA: Capitol Publications, 1987).
18. *1992 Service Report*, 1992.
19. *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1992, 17.
20.  $[42.7/(100-42.6)]/[19.7/(100-19.7)] = 3$
21. George Grant, *Grand Illusions: The Legacy of Planned Parenthood* (Brentwood, TN: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1984) 98.
22. Calculations made by Ed Szymkowiak, director of Stop Planned Parenthood International, from numbers from "Abortion Surveillance -- United States, 1997," Centers for Disease Control, 8 December 2000, 17.