

August 1979

President's Page: License to Be Rarent?

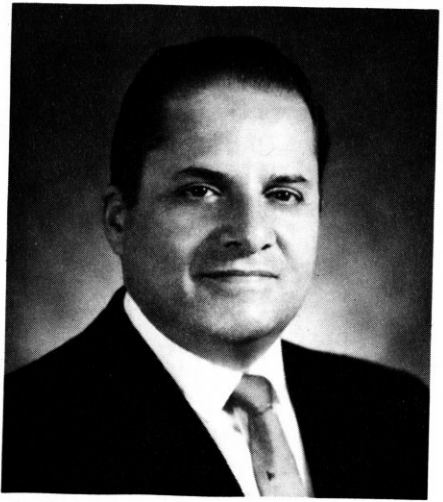
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Recommended Citation

Ricotta, Joseph J. (1979) "President's Page: License to Be Rarent?," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : No. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol46/iss3/1>

President's Page



License to Be Parent?

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (UPI) — If you and your spouse have IQs above 80, earn more than \$8,000 a year, have no serious emotional problems and know how to care for children, you would receive a license from the government to have a baby.

If you failed one of the requirements, you and your mate would not be allowed to become parents.

Extreme perhaps, but educational psychologist Jerry Bergman at Bowling Green State University says, "We have to at least look at the idea."

Dr. Bergman, father of two, has reservations about the idea. But he said the problems of energy and food supplies make it necessary for governments to look at proposals.

"License to be parent?" This question caught my eye as I skimmed over the "People in the News" section of a recent issue of the *Buffalo Evening News*.

"License to Be Parent?" A frightening concept which, if repeated often enough, may become acceptable to many! For me this notion truly tolls the death knell for human freedom, human dignity.

As long ago as 1964, the concept of licensed parenthood was espoused from the podium of an International Conference on Population Control. The recommendation made was to "treat" the public drinking water with the oral contraceptive. This would render the

entire population infertile, for even the male after ingesting "the pill" for 14 consecutive days is rendered infertile through suppression of spermatogenesis.

Science fiction? Hardly — for an Indian physician present at that conference, did in fact "treat" the drinking water in his native village with the pill.

Untreated drinking water according to this proposal would be made available to aspiring parents only after a license to be parents was approved. Who would decide? Not clergy or physician but government. After all government will feed, clothe, house, educate, medicate, bury.

When consulted for advice regarding population control, a Nobel Prize winner in physics recommended that a silicone pellet be impregnated with estrogen-progestagen. This slow release pellet, with a potential activity of 20 years, should then be implanted sub-dermally in all females before they reached biologic maturity. Under penalty of law, these pellets would be removed only after a license for parenthood were granted. The grantor? Government. Field trials with such a pellet implant are currently in progress in Mexico.

Several years ago, *OB-GYN News* quoted a noted obstetrician teacher as recommending that scholastic achievement be used as a guideline for granting permission to reproduce. Criteria for qualified parenthood could be based on scholastic achievement.

- Elementary school graduates . . . No
- High school graduates Maybe
- College graduates Some of them

The spectre of government control of the practice of medicine looms more ominous day by day.

The threat of government control of the "License to Be Parent" is far more ominous.

May it rest in peace!

— Joseph J. Ricotta, M.D.