

# The Eye on Abortion

December 2004



## A DISTURBING LOOK INTO THE MIND OF MARGARET SANGER - PART 2

**Margaret Sanger.** Maybe you hadn't heard of her before reading my last newsletter, but I'll bet you'll never forget her after reading some of her quotes! Ah, but that was just the beginning! This month we will look at another side of Sanger . . . a darker side. Yes, she had a particular distaste for large families and viewed women who had them as "mere incubators," but she also had a very strange and frightening worldview. In her view, the human race wasn't being run the way she thought it should be, so she devised a very strategic plan for how to bring about a new race, a stronger race.

First of all, it's important to realize that Sanger didn't merely view women as a gender in need of the right to birth control. Although she wanted to see laws changed so that women could control their pregnancies, and thus have better lives with "wanted" children, women became almost a religion unto themselves in Sanger's eyes.



### WOMANHOOD/MOTHERHOOD AS A RELIGION

In her book Woman and the New Race, in reference to women being able to bear children only when they want to, she says, "**Free to follow the feminine spirit, which dwells in *the sanctuary of her nature*, she will, in her daily life, give expression to that high idealism which is *the fruit of that spirit* when it is unhampered and unviolated."** She also refers to this as "***the gospel of voluntary motherhood.***" (Emphasis is added on this, and all other quotes.) Her writings are permeated with this type of talk.

Sanger wasn't shy at all in regards to throwing off the laws of God in order to advance womanhood. She states, "**The moral force of woman's nature will be unchained ; and of its own dynamic power will uplift her to a plane unimagined by those holding fast to the old standards of church morality. The feminine spirits animated by joyous, triumphant love, will make its own high tenets of morality. Free womanhood, out of the depths of its rich experiences, will observe and comply with *the inner demands of its being.* The manner in which it learns to do this best may be said to be the moral law of woman's being."**

### SANGER ♥s EUGENICS

Now, back to the plan. Sanger's plan was very exact in nature and...and very inhumane. Sanger was a strong supporter of **eugenics**. A simple way of understanding eugenics is that it is basically an attempt to force the supposed "evolutionary/natural selection" process (which she believed in strongly). It is, for lack of a better term, "planned evolution." Of course the goal of eugenics is always to end up with healthy, fully functional Arian humans or "stock", as Sanger and many eugenicists referred to people.

In April of 1933, The Birth Control Review (a publication of Sanger's organization, the American Birth Control League) published an article by Dr. Ernst Rudin, the director of the

foremost German eugenics research institute, the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Genealogy, and one of the founders of the Nazi Society for Racial Hygiene. In this article Dr. Rudin said that the goal of eugenics was "to prevent the multiplication of **bad stocks.**" In short, Sanger, as well as eugenicists like Rudin, viewed all of humanity as a "**human garden**" from which many "**human weeds**" needed to be "**plucked out.**" Pretty scary. She believed that we could create the equivalent of "supermen" if we followed her plan.

She saw the legalization of birth control as one of the best possible ways to accomplish this end. Most of us probably view birth control merely as a way to help better plan when we would like to have children. But in Sanger's 1922 book, *The Pivot of Civilization*, Sanger stated that, "**Birth control itself, often denounced as a violation of natural law, is nothing more or less than the facilitation of the process of weeding out the unfit, of preventing the birth of defectives or of those who will become defectives. So, in compliance with nature's working plan, we must permit womanhood its full development before we can expect of it efficient motherhood. If we are to make racial progress, this development of womanhood must precede motherhood in every individual woman.**"

#### **EERILY SIMILAR?**

"The demand that defective people be prevented from propagating equally defective offspring . . . represents the most humane act of mankind."  
**Adolf Hitler** (Mein Kampf, volume 1, chapter 10)

". . . we prefer the policy of immediate sterilization, of making sure that parenthood is absolutely prohibited to the feeble-minded."

**Margaret Sanger** (*The Pivot of Civilization*, page 102)

### **SANGER'S "SPIRITUAL EUGENICS"**

The role that women played in Sanger's eugenic fantasyland cannot be overstated. **She believed that women were the ones who were going to give birth to the highly evolved "supermen" of the future, or "the race to come."** Sanger's worldview consisted of a very strange mix of beliefs. She didn't believe in God, but she had strong beliefs in evolution. She spiritualized evolution to a level that, I'm sure, even Charles Darwin never imagined.

She felt it was important for women to have total freedom over their reproductive health, not only so that they could give birth to "fit" children, but also so that mothers could enter a highly elevated spiritual state and then pass that euphoric state on to their children, thus "evolving them" into a "race of thoroughbreds." "**It [voluntary motherhood] is as important to the race as to the woman, for through it is developed that high love impulse which, conveyed to the child, attunes and perfects its being . . . this is the miracle of free womanhood, that in its freedom it becomes the race mother . . . In its freedom, its thoughts turn to the race. Like begets like. We gather perfect fruit from perfect trees. The race is but the amplification of its mother body, the multiplication of flesh habitations; beautified and perfected for souls akin to the mother soul.**"

Sanger derived many of her ideas straight out of the very *unscientific* science of evolution. You can clearly see that in comments like this, "**Through the development of the individual mother, better and higher types of animals are produced and carried forward. In a word, natural law makes the female the expression and the conveyor of racial efficiency.**"

Sometimes she would even let men in on her "paradise" to come. "**For in that dawn men and women will have come to the realization, already suggested, that here close at hand is our paradise, our everlasting abode, our Heaven and our eternity. Not by leaving it and our essential humanity behind us, nor by sighing to be anything but what we are, shall we ever become ennobled or immortal. Not for woman only, but for all of humanity is this the field where we must seek the secret of eternal life.**" Do you see what I mean about the whole "supermen" idea?



## “HUMAN WEEDS”

So, who exactly were these **“weeds...overrunning the human garden”** (a.k.a. the “unfit”)? Sanger asserts over and over again in The Pivot of Civilization that they are **“the feeble-minded.”** Who are the feeble-minded? Sanger saw them to be the physically or mentally disabled, the irresponsible, the unfortunate or poor, the illiterate, etc. Basically, you name it and it would probably fall safely into that category since, by her own admission, she believed **86.5%** of America’s population to be feeble-minded to some degree! The very thought of these “socially unfit strains” procreating was almost more than Sanger could bear!



She was concerned that the statesmen of her day were **“ignoring the exigent problem of the *elimination of the feeble-minded.*”** She continued to say, **“In this, however, the politicians are at one with the traditions of a civilization, which, with its *charities and philanthropies, has propped up the defective and degenerate and relieved them of the burdens borne by the healthy sections of the community, thus enabling them more easily and more numerously to propagate their kind.*”**

The founders of Sanger’s organization, the American Birth Control League (known as Planned Parenthood today), had more ties to Hitler than just a shared vision. Their board of directors included avowed Nazi supporters such as Dr. Lothrop Stoddard who authored The Rising Tide of Color Against White World-Supremacy and another book praising the Nazi sterilization law.



Not only did Sanger see the use of birth control as a way to weed out “undesirables,” but much like Hitler, she also saw **segregation and forced sterilization** as a good way to bring forth a **“new race of thoroughbreds.”** You can read about Sanger’s plan to start what would have been the equivalent of concentration camps, here in America, in the form of **“farmlands and homesteads”** in a paper she wrote entitled a “Plan for Peace.”

## NO MERCY FOR THE NEEDY OR “IMPERFECT”

This leads me to one of Sanger’s most harsh beliefs. In The Pivot of Civilization, in the chapter titled “The Cruelty of Charity,” Sanger states that instead of helping the needy, we should rid ourselves of our “strain of sentimentalism” that compels us to help the disadvantaged among us (versus letting them suffer and die, as they would have naturally had we not intervened).

She said that the financial cost of helping those in **“alms-houses, reformatories, schools for the blind, deaf and mute, in insane asylums, in homes for the feeble-minded and epileptic”** should open our eyes to **“the terrific cost to the community of this *dead weight of human waste.*”** Her solution? Stop helping them! How can we do that? According to Sanger, we need to stop allowing our “hearts” to be touched” and stop demanding “immediate action” because sometimes “immediate action may be worse than no action at all.”



Along the same vein, Sanger opposed the idea of providing medical and nursing facilities “gratis” to slum mothers. That may explain why, to this day, **Planned Parenthood doesn’t provide women with any maternal care whatsoever.** For those seeking help, Planned Parenthood typically provides them with only two options: prevent the conception of the baby or kill the baby through abortion once it has already been conceived.

“...we are paying for and even submitting to the dictates of an ever increasing, unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all.”

Margaret Sanger- The Pivot of Civilization, Chapter VIII

## WAS SANGER RACIST?

As you've already seen in part, there is little doubt as to whether Sanger's views were racist or not. In 1939 she and Clarence Gamble made a well-known proposal called "**Birth Control and the Negro**," which claimed that **"the poorer areas, particularly in the South ... are producing alarmingly more than their share of future generations."**



Sanger changed the name of her organization from the American Birth Control League to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America when rumors began to circulate about how the Nazis were putting her theories about weeding out "genetically inferior races" into practice.

Planned Parenthood began handing out the "Maggie Award" in 1966 to unsuspecting individuals who, I am sure, did not realize what Sanger's real beliefs were. The first recipient of this award was **Martin Luther King Jr.**— who was obviously unaware that Sanger had begun a project that would attempt to *eliminate his own race*. Sanger wrote to Gamble, **"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 that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."** Can you imagine how Dr. King would have felt had he known what Sanger's motives were when choosing him as a Maggie Award recipient?

So was Sanger a racist? Consider another one of her bone-chilling quotes; **"Every single case of inherited defect, every malformed child, every congenitally tainted human being brought into this world is of infinite importance to that poor individual; but it is of scarcely less importance to the rest of us and to all of our children who must pay in one way or another for these biological and racial mistakes."**

## FINAL THOUGHTS

While studying the teachings of Margaret Sanger, the thing that saddened me most was this comment, **"When the womb becomes fruitful through the desire of an aspiring love, another Newton will come forth to unlock further the secrets of the earth and the stars. There will come a Plato who will be understood, a Socrates who will drink no hemlock, and a Jesus who will not die upon the cross."** She completely missed the point of Christ's death on the cross, and likewise, His entrance into our world. Only the Lord knows whether Sanger embraced Christ in her dying days, but it is my prayer that Planned Parenthood's leadership today, would see the horror of the sin of abortion, turn from it and embrace Jesus this. I also pray that He would open the eyes of the abortion minded so that they would see the wonderful design that the Lord has made in the creation of man, and in nature, and fall to their knees and worship the One who made them fearfully and wonderfully . . . no matter how "imperfect" they may seem.

Although Planned Parenthood has, seemingly, continued to carry on the legacy of Margaret Sanger (albeit hidden, thanks to current media bias and political rhetoric), we need not despair. Take heart in the fact that you and I, in the Lord's strength, can work to reveal truth and to defend the unborn, regardless of Planned Parenthood's attempts to accomplish the opposite. God can change the hearts of Planned Parenthood's staff in an instant. Let's pray fervently that their eyes will indeed be opened to the truth of the Word of God and to the preciousness of God's creation.

For the glory of Christ and the sake of the unborn,

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So the Lord said to him, "Who made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?" Exodus 4: 11