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5.9 Billion People and Counting . . .

President of the Washington, D.C.-based Population Institute To Discuss Overpopulation and Its Consequences at IWU, Oct. 27

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--At 1:30:23 p.m. (CDT) on Friday, Oct. 16, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the world's population at 5,949,645,858 people.

The Census Bureau predicts that on July 1, 1999--nine months from now--the number of people inhabiting planet Earth will be more than six billion.

Werner Fornos, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Population Institute will discuss overpopulation and its consequences in an Oct. 27 presentation at 8 p.m. in Room 101 Center for Natural Science at Illinois Wesleyan University. The science center is located at 201 E. Beecher, Bloomington.

Fornos' presentation is entitled, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?--Six Billion People."

His IWU appearance marks World Population Awareness Week, Oct. 24-31.

Fornos has been a leader in the struggle to balance the world's population and resources for more than two decades.

"It would be wrong to say that Werner was part of a large apparatus of people fighting for population control in the world," said U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.). "There are many days he looks like the entire fight himself."

Fornos is the author of "Gaining People, Losing Ground," and the internationally released report, "1997 World Population Overview."

Fornos joined the Population Institute in 1978 and became president of the organization in 1982. Prior to his affiliation with the Institute, he was an assistant professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he headed the university's global Population Information Program.

As head of the Population Institute, Fornos devotes his time to convincing leaders of developing nations that they must balance their populations with resources and encourages leaders of industrialized countries to help poorer countries achieve their demographic objectives. Fornos has taken this message to numerous international conferences since 1974. He frequently appears before civic and service organizations worldwide and often makes radio and television appearances, as well as writing newspaper and magazine articles.

Fornos has served as a management consultant on family planning programs for Tunisia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Mexico, the Philippines, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka, and Kenya. He was a Maryland state legislator from 1966-70.

On the state government level, Fornos has served as Maryland's Manpower Administrator and as Assistant Secretary of Human Resources.

At the federal government level, he has served as Special Assistant to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for labor-management relations and Deputy Assistant Manpower Administrator.

Fornos has been nominated for the United Nations Population Award four times, most recently in 1997.

Fornos is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in government and politics. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954-58.

He is an honorary professor of international relations at Sichuan University in the People's Republic of China, a member of the board of directors of the United Nations Association for the United States, and an elected member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

The Population Institute is the world's largest independent, non-profit educational organization dedicated exclusively to achieving a more equitable balance between the world's population, environment, and resources. The Institute was established in 1969 and has members in 160 nations.

Fornos' presentation is sponsored by several IWU departments: Biology, Environmental Studies, International Studies, Sociology, and Women's Studies.

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