

Rockefeller Center
New York

Room 5600
30 Rockefeller Plaza

March 17th, 1934

RE: Birth Control

Dear Father:

As you of course know, the Bureau of Social Hygiene is terminating its activities on June 30th. The two fields to which the Bureau has devoted the major part of its time and resources are criminology and sex hygiene. It would seem from what Mr. Fosdick says, as if the Rockefeller Foundation might find it possible to assume an interest in the former. As to the latter, which is really the field of birth control and related questions, it would not appear as if it, as a whole, could be taken over by any of the boards in which you are interested, both because of the programs of these boards and the element of propaganda and controversy which so often is attached to endeavors in birth control.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you if you would be interested, through the Advisory Committees, to assume the responsibility for the continuance of the Bureau's support in this important field. I take the liberty of making this suggestion to you because of my very great personal interest in birth control and related questions, and because of the fact that from time to time appeals do come to this office which we have previously referred to the Bureau -- which procedure, of course, will no longer be possible. As a matter of fact we have before us at the moment an exceedingly interesting project in regard to so called Marriage Consultation Centers which comes from the New York Academy of Medicine and which we are at somewhat of a loss to know how to handle.

From the Bureau of Social Hygiene I learn that over a period of years they have contributed to the American Birth Control League and the National Committee on Maternal Health. For 1934 a contribution of \$10,000. has already been made to the former, but no provision has been made for a renewal to the latter organization, which last year received \$12,300. from the Bureau. Attached hereto is the statement prepared by the Bureau showing their contributions to social hygiene and sex research over the past five years which I feel sure will be helpful to you in your thinking on this subject.

Beside the two above mentioned organizations, there are other individuals and groups doing important work in this field, such as Miss Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, which it would seem we might well support also.

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To present a very rough but concrete budget for your consideration, I would suggest the following:

American Birth Control League	\$10,000.
Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau	5,000.
National Committee on Maternal Health	12,300.
National Association for Federal Legislation on Birth Control	1,000.
Other projects	<u>11,700.</u>
<u>Total</u>	\$ 40,000.

These figures are included only as a starting point for your thinking. Since \$10,000. has already been given to the American Birth Control League for 1934, the above total can be reduced by that amount. It is included merely to give you the complete picture.

If you should be desirous of assuming a personal interest in this field somewhat along the lines outlined above, and if you should feel that it was desirable to have the Advisory Committees handle the matter for you, it would be necessary to increase the authorizations to these committees for the current year by either \$30,000., the sum suggested, or some other amount, greater or less, which you would be interested to have expended for this work.

I might say that I have discussed this whole situation with Mr. Raymond Fosdick and that he heartily approves the suggestions submitted in this letter.

In concluding, may I add one further statement in regard to my interest in birth control. I have come pretty definitely to the conclusion that it is the field in which I will be interested, for the present at least, to concentrate my own giving, as I feel that it is so fundamental and underlying. While I would not, of course, expect to contribute in the amounts that I have suggested for your consideration, if you should feel that it was not wise for you personally to continue the same liberal basis of giving as the Bureau of Social Hygiene has maintained, I would be more than glad to supplement your gifts or make independent ones of my own; or I could confine my financial efforts to individuals, organizations and projects to which you

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were not giving. In any event I should want very much indeed to coordinate whatever I might be able to do with whatever support you might feel it desirable to lend to this field.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John", with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom of the name.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
10 West 54th Street
New York City