EDITORIALS

Should American Children Go Hungry?

Despite Administration pledges to banish hunger among American school children, a wide gap continues to exist between promises and performance. The recent vote in the Senate to "borrow" more than $100 million from surpluses in an agricultural import-duty fund points to the need for action by the federal government. As Senator Magnuson summed it up, "When you're hungry, you're hungry. You can't wait until some bureaucrat sends letters back and forth." The need is to banish hunger among American children and to see to it that they are more adequately fed. Even with the money proposed by the Senate, the standard of 46 cents per child which it approved is quite low. Whether a nourishing meal can be provided today at this cost is still questionable. Whatever the outcome of the Congressional actions, all those concerned with the health of our children, and thus with the well-being of America, should make known to the Administration their desire for prompt action to feed the children of America adequately.

Mortality and Population

Mortality is a curiously neglected area of population research. This is as true in the United States as it is in the densely settled and rapidly increasing agricultural populations where the persistence of declining mortality and political stability are alike precarious. The great problems of population dynamics in the contemporary United States lie in the fields of growth and distribution. The critical question of growth in this period of low and declining natality is the maintenance of low levels of fertility with minimal fluctuations over time. The critical question of distribution is metropolitan mobility, with the in-migrations of disadvantaged minorities of color and subculture to central cities and the out-migrations of advantaged whites to the outer sectors and beyond.

As we probe the dimensions and the interrelations of family and fertility with migration, mobility and redistribution, the dual forces of social-economic mal-distributions and ethnic-cultural diversities become increasingly apparent. If the queries are widened and deepened, the questions become growth rather than