GOALS: To examine implications for commerce and industry of current world population trends.

To define options still at hand for avoiding the severe population problems evident elsewhere in the United States and the world.

To consider ways whereby leaders in commerce and industry can influence the choice of more rational styles of future growth.

SCOPE: The conference will have an international scope, but will especially focus on the Southern region of the United States. Aspects of this region’s transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy are relevant to much of the world. To be examined will be effects of population change on the labor force, consumption patterns, capital investment, urbanization problems, pressures on local government, constraints on use of natural resources, and the costs and benefits of possible alternative population patterns henceforth.

IMPACT: “Population Priorities and Options for Commerce and Industry, 1970-2000” will provide the first occasion in the United States for joint thinking on a major scale between key industrial leaders and some of the world’s foremost population scientists. It will advance knowledge of relationships between population growth and business responsibilities. It hopes to initiate action and to suggest ways for mobilizing further thought and action. And it aims to foster broader public understanding of the readjustments in values, life patterns and policies that our changing population may require.