

September 22, 1969

To the Editor
San Francisco Chronicle

Art Hoppe's satire on "Build a Child" (Sept. 16) outdoes anything I could write in straight language about the zeal of parents for engineering their children's future, usually by managing their education. ^{besides passing on their own genes} It is also a beautiful parody of the values of a TV-based culture.

The ~~wire~~ wire services were insufficiently impressed by the main point of my talk at the Nobel Symposium in Stockholm and I would be grateful for the opportunity of expressing it to your readers.

The world economic system in fact engineers the mental characteristics of tens of millions of children born every year.

By malnutrition and disease that are entirely preventable, we cast their brains in a retarded mold, a crime of biological engineering fostered by our neglect and indifference. I do not think our people would allow it to happen once we understood this consequence of policies like our withdrawal from the responsibilities of foreign aid.

I wish my parents had had the means to give me Mr. Hoppe's poetic skills, and Ralph Nader's shrillness, if only to convey this all-important message.

Yours sincerely,

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