

possibilities for providing women with proper conditions became more and more difficult. Ceausescu instituted a crash program to pay off the country's debts by, among other things, exporting food and rationing energy. A so-called 'scientific nourishment' program failed to provide even the most elementary diet. 'Your apartment was too small. It was unheated and you didn't have enough to eat. You didn't even have milk for the baby', says Danuța Boscu, B-o-s-c-u, a 27-year-old doctor and mother of a three-year-old boy, Alexander. The worst victim of these shortages was the baby. Abandoned, malnourished children have swamped the country's ill-heated, ill-lit orphanages. Under Ceausescu, many babies even were sold for hard currency to infertile Western couples. Pregnant women often resorted to self-abortion. Marcica Negru suffered from terrible bleeding from her self-abortion attempts. But she stayed away from a doctor fearing that the security police would find out. Doctors are guarded about Mrs. Negru's condition. Her organs suffered much damage, they say, and a safe abortion may not be possible. But at least now she and the thousands of other women like her have hope. Since Ceausescu's execution, thousands of women have flooded to hospitals across the country. 'As soon as I heard that Ceausescu was finished, I had enough courage to come to the hospital. The revolution saved me.'" That is a story that I imagine could be repeated throughout the world. And I had said earlier that this idea of young impregnated women not wanting to talk to their parents about the fact that they were pregnant could also be something repeated all over the world. This story about what was happening in Romania indicates the kind of mentality that wants to use women in this fashion, that wants to own them, endanger their health, threaten their very lives because of some politically motivated goal of increasing the population in order that the nation has a multitude of people, because, as Ceausescu was quoted as saying, a great nation requires a great number of people. That is the attitude some people have. And the easiest thing to do is to convert a woman into a brood sow. Let her have all these young 'uns. Keep her barefooted, keep her poor, keep her ignorant, keep her ill, in ill health and don't let her recognize her humanity, make her think that she exists at the sufferance of these males. That is tragic and it's unfair. I just got a message from the other world. Good news, but I'm not going to share it because to speak it would destroy the spell. But I have had a second burst of energy brought to me as a result of this. Isn't it something how we can stimulate curiosity in people? And you know what it shows? That as old and jaded as we all are, there are still