

POLITICS AND GROWTH

It is all right to raise expectations, it is all right for good marriages to break up, it is all right for the better jobs to be thrown up, it is all right for the most progressive and conscientious parents to be abandoned by their children. It is all a process of discovery about what is possible and it is just a fact, I believe, that the only way to find out what the limits are is to try to break them. Unless we try to get what we really want, how can we know whether we really want it? How can we know whether there are deleterious side-effects which are worse than the original problem? Unless some of us at least go for broke, no one ever finds out anything. Sure we suffer, so what? Who said suffering was out? But at least we are learning, and helping others to learn.

And Goddammit! I *am* entitled to good communication, I *am* entitled to care what effect my actions have on my children, I *am* entitled to a good sex life - and I *do* resent social norms and structures which get in the way of those things. But what this means is that all this stuff is political, and we've got to think more in *those* terms about it, and not be surprised when life meets resistance from anti-life. It's not technology which has produced the problems, it's liberation - even the weakened and half-hearted liberation which is all that is possible in this set-up we call Western Culture.

John Rowan.