

World Food Supplies

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CONFLICTING interests are stirring up a lot of confusion about the world food situation. In order to bring the situation into focus, it is necessary to look at the various divisive factors:

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1. THE WORLD does not have enough food. Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz says it is about 400 days supply, but a report at the recent world population conference in Bucharest said it was only a 27-day supply. Whatever it is, it is not enough.

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2. POPULATION continues to increase. Countries with worst food problems seem to be increasing fastest. As havenot nations are provided with ^{more} food, people live longer, produce more children and the infant mortality rate declines. Family planning and birth control are not widely accepted in many overcrowded countries.

3. FARMERS in underdeveloped lands resist new methods that could step up their food production. Others learn slowly to use modern machinery and technology. Religious taboos prevent millions from eating livestock ^{utilizing} and other resources available to them.

4. AMERICAN extremists are shifting their attention from the environment to hungry people. Organizations soliciting funds are mailing photos of undernourished children to large lists of names and reportedly are planning to utilize television to play upon the emotions of Americans to raise more money.

5. ~~MM~~ THE UNITED STATES has carried on extensive and expensive foreign aid programs for decades, with special donations to help anywhere in the world during disasters or emergencies. We can and should help to feed the world. We always have and always will.

6. BECAUSE people in other nations have less food available in total and per capita, extremists are attempting to make us feel guilty about eating three meals a day or a normal diet. They are urging that we stop eating so well. A Harvard professor, for example, suggests that "if Americans ate like the Chienese, we'd have most of the problem solved." Don't eat it, they say; send it abroad.

7. OTHER AMERICANS take an opposite, but just as illogical, view.

~~mmmmmmmmmmmm~~ Concerned because the grain surpluses that they were complaining about four or five years ago have been sold out of government ~~mmmm~~ granaries, this group wants to slam an embargo on exports of all ~~mmmmmmmmmm~~ commodities. This would build up a new stack of surpluses, depress prices and bankrupt farmers.

8. CONSUMERISM is spreading, ~~mmmmmmmmmm~~ ^{Federal and other programs} designed to appeal to ~~mmmm~~ consumers by penalizing producers, manufacturers and retailers

are proliferating. Two-thirds of the USDA budget is allocated to food stamp programs, school lunches and other consumer needs, ~~hmm~~ Farmers are criticized for the cost, although direct subsidies have been ~~largely~~ eliminated ~~m~~ on nearly all crops.

9. CONGRESSMEN are urging that the United States set up a national food reserve.. This is another scheme for the government to displace private enterprise with a regulated farm economy. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn., has introduced a bill providing for ~~m~~ a food reserve "to ~~m~~ assure needy nations of emergency supplies and to stabilize prices by purchasing grain in times of surplus and selling in times of shortage."

10. THE OVERSEAS Development Council and the World Council of Churches, among others, are supporting ~~m~~ various plans to establish an international food reserve. The general idea is that each nation would put in food according to its production and that each nation would take out food according to its needs. This is the basic idea of Communism, as advocated for individuals by Karl Marx, with application ~~proposed~~ proposed on a worldwide basis.

11. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE Organization (FAO), an agency of the United Nations, will hold a conference of about 130 nations in Rome, Italy, Nov.5-16, to discuss a ~~world~~ world food bank. Since most of these nations are deficient in food supplies and only a few, including the United States, have any surplus to provide, it is a virtual

certainty that, if the matter is put to a vote, the majority would vote for us to put our food supplies into the "world pot" so that they might take them out. They might or might not be paid for.

12. THE UNITED STATES cannot feed all of the hungry people of the world, ^{others say.} We must export and we should do all that we can on a humanitarian basis, but if we try to feed everybody, we won't be able to feed ourselves and we will become one of the havem-not nations.

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Each of the above premises ~~mmmm~~ conflicts with some of the others. None of us can accept all of them. What should we do?

It would seem wise for us to examine ~~mm~~ each of the propositions objectively and unemotionally. Not coldly, but in a realistic manner, considering what ~~mm~~ would be best for the world and ourselves in the long run.

We should not forget that one of the vital factors at stake in this scramble to get enough to eat is political. Food control is people control, and totalitarian nations will not need to worry about using military procedures to take over this country if they can gain control of our food supply, by any means possible.

Secretary Butz has expressed his position on the world food reserve. He is opposed to it. He is symptathetic to providing for the hungry people, as far as we can do so, but he wants the people of this nation to retain jurisdiction over distribution of

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the food that we give away, or finance by loans, credit or grants.

Apparently, not all of the top officials in Washington agree with this point of view. Probably Butz will head the U.S. delegation, ~~mmm~~ and says he will enter the conference with "a spirit of constructive helpfulness, sharing and co-operation". What might happen if other delegates prefer to join with the have-not nations in their demands for a place at our dinner table is conjecture.

American farmers must continue to export agricultural commodities if we are to maintain a balance of payments in the world market ~~mmm~~ and have money to buy ~~mmm~~ petroleum that we need, plus many other products consumers want and need.

The U.S. market consumers only ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ about one-third of our wheat production, and less than half of our corn and soybeans. If we don't have a world market, farmers will suffer ~~mm~~ financial losses and ultimately production ^{would} have to be cut back to what ~~mm~~ this country needs. That would be economic disaster.

The world is hungry, and we want to help feed it. But this is not time to panic and start playing ~~xxxxxx~~ rigged games with Communist nations ~~mm~~ and those ~~mm~~ who want to take away what we have without giving anything in return.

This is a problem ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that needs to be discussed in farm and livestock organization meetings and clear-cut, well considered positions taken. Then farmers and stockmen need to rise up and make

their voices heard in Congress and elsewhere.

Their futures depend upon it, but more importantly, the economic ^{welfare} ~~xxxxxxx~~ of this ccountry, freedom of free people, and the physical survival of millions of hungry people hang in the balance. That balance can be tipped the wrong way if the extremists and bubbleheaded thinkers gain control of this as they did of the environmentalist and consumer movements, just to mention a couple out of many.

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