

# Everyone Can Add to Development

**I**NVENT something! Discover a new resource or a new method that will help to provide essentials of life for mankind!

This is the challenge of the 21st century, when the world's population may reach five or six billion. We can't provide enough food, fuel, housing and transportation by cutting back and spreading the shortages to everybody.

Public pessimists have been advocating that course, expressing fears that we may have exhausted our ingenuity.

An old proverb says "Necessity is the mother of invention." We are up against the necessity of producing what we need with fewer resources, by substituting abundant materials for those that are scarce, and by using less energy to do it.

In an article in the July Scientific American, Nathan Keyfitz asks: "How far can industrial society spread through the pre-industrial world before it reaches a ceiling imposed by space, raw materials and

waste disposal?"

Then the scientist-mathematician says that is the wrong question and he rephrases it thusly: "How fast can development progress, whether toward an ultimate limit or not?"

Keyfitz relates population to the objective of more people moving out of the poverty class into the middle economic class, and he does not see equal distribution as the answer.

"If, starting tomorrow, Americans were all to live like (Asian) Indians, then their (the Americans') higher incomes would simply disappear," the scientist writes. "There would be nothing to transfer."

Along with reformers' demands for nationalization of everything, a cry is heard for centralization of research, science and invention under federal direction. This ignores the mighty contributions made to our progress by commercial firms.

This trend is being resisted by businesses and industries with research and development programs and by many scientists. Gould, Inc., an Illi-

nois corporation, has recently published its "sixth white paper on technology", which is devoted to growth potential and incentives in our free enterprise system.

Gould admits that government has a place in certain areas of research, such as space, national security, health and medicine, but concludes this does not justify the attitude that government should direct all research and all technology.

"Research in the service of free enterprise has worked wonders for our economy and our personal wants," Gould says. "It has a proven track record. The fact that nations with totally government-directed research are eagerly buying technology from nations with free enterprise technology serves to confirm its efficacy. The magic of the marketplace has worked. Let's not lose it!"

The world will fail if people stop thinking up better ways to do things. Our future depends on multiplying, not dividing.