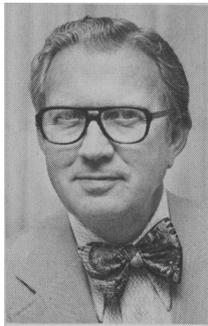


A challenge to **AGRICULTURE**



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WE BECOME MORE AWARE every day that we are all members of a global community. We are connected not only by instant communications and an international economic system, but also by a whole set of problems that cannot be solved by single nations acting alone. The oil embargo provided an example of how developments in one area can have dramatic and world-wide repercussions.

We live in a world in which no nation can be wholly unaffected by what happens elsewhere. The deteriorating food supply situation in many of the less-developed countries, if continued, will have far-reaching consequences and costs which will be borne by all of us. If the trend is not reversed, it will mean continued and increasing dependence of third world countries on the developed countries, as well as more hunger, more political instability, more apathy, and less hope for the conditions that could lead to development and self-sufficiency.

In its annual meeting last month, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges adopted a resolution addressing the problem of world food needs. It noted the key role played by member institutions in agricultural development around the world, including the training of thousands of professionals from the developing world and the building of hundreds of colleges and universities in other countries. The resolution noted that while the member institutions constituted the world's largest concentration of experienced manpower in the agricultural sciences, the urgency of world food needs requires an immediate strengthening of our ability to utilize this great talent base.

The resolution further stated that America's food production capability provides a stable domestic food supply as well as opportunities for international trade, and urged that the U.S. continue its efforts to alleviate hunger and insure sound nutrition for the deprived people of all nations in the interests of humanity and political stability. It concluded: "As public universities we want an important role in this undertaking. We therefor pledge ourselves to the following actions: (1) to accelerate the redirection of our own manpower and financial resources to carry out this mission more effectively;

(2) to seek new legislation enabling universities to assume direct responsibility for the use of their scientists, engineers and educators in overseas endeavors; (3) to develop new organizations and policy forums which enable us to serve as a partner with the agencies of the federal government; and (4) to continue attempts to obtain a substantial public investment in agricultural research and education.

"As this Association has stressed for over a year, such an investment is crucial to the development of new technology to serve the long term needs of the American people and ultimately all people of the world. To be true to our historic responsibility as colleges of the people, we can make no less a pledge than to help a hungry world learn to feed itself with nutritional adequacy."

As the nation's leading agricultural state, California will have a significant role in dealing with future food problems. The extraordinary diversity of California's agriculture—over 200 crop and livestock commodities grown under a wide range of climate conditions—gives the state an exceptional concentration of research and production expertise.

The nature of California's agriculture also means that it has a large stake in the world's economic health and stability. The state's agricultural prosperity depends on exports. Except for rice and cotton, California's agricultural exports are largely high-value specialty crops and their world-wide consumption depends on purchasing power and dietary habits that develop as a country's economy develops. Economic growth in the developing world, built on a strengthened agricultural base, will be a key factor in long-term future growth of export demand for California crops.

Unless agricultural productivity in the developing regions can be increased, the gap between the rich and poor nations will continue to widen, the developing world will fall further behind in the economic race, the possibilities for international trade will be reduced, and the probability of instability, hostility and aggression within our global community will be significantly increased. The challenge to agricultural science and education is clear and exciting.