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*Gap Between Rich & Poor  
North & South*

*Pogo -*

In spite of the widespread attention generated by the World Food Conference, the world still teeters today on the brink of food insecurity.

That conference highlighted the world food problem and alerted many concerned citizens and organizations. An agreement was reached on numerous steps to expand agricultural production, increase food aid, improve our food information system and establish an international reserve system.

But because of record U.S. production last year and the prospect of good crops again this year, the interest and concern has decreased.

However, in spite of record production in the U.S. and increased stock carryovers here, the world stocks are expected to increase only slightly.

In the early 1960's, world food stocks averaged about 3 months, and the United States withheld, on average, about 70 million acres from production.

The following figures are indicative:

(Million metric tons)

<u>WORLD FOOD RESERVES</u>	<u>Grain Stocks</u>	<u>Idle land</u>	<u>Total Reserves</u>
The early 1960's	140	70	210
The late 1960's	113	66	179
1972	131	78	209
1975	124	-	124
1976	156	-	156 est.

↳ The increase in food stocks in 1976 will be very much dependent upon favorable weather in the coming months. ↳ And most of the stock build-up will be in the developed countries, mainly the U.S.

↳ We also should note that the United States has released all land for full production, and yet the food supply situation remains uncertain.

↳ The sale of 19 million bushels of grain to the Soviet Union in 1972 signalled the change from a picture of surplus to one of scarcity and volatile markets.

#### RISING WORLD FOOD NEEDS

The world's demand for food is growing each year -- due to affluence and rising expectations, not just increasing population.

↳ And we can see from the food riots in Poland and the changed Soviet policies that improving one's diet is a worldwide trend.

↳ The world's demand for food also is growing because population is increasing by around 75 million people each year.

↳ By the end of this century the human race is likely to grow from today's 4 billion people to about 7 billion people.

↳ And in an additional fifty years -- 2050, which some of you will see -- the world's population may reach 13 billion people.

↳ In developing nations, such as Nigeria and Pakistan, nearly half of the population is 15 years of age or under. This will

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mean continued population growth -- often averaging from 2.5 to 3.0 percent per year.

With this rapid population growth in the developing world, their portion of the world's people will increase from 49 percent in 1970 to 61 percent in 2000. And it is in the developing world where the food deficit is most serious.

#### CLIMATE AND FOOD SUPPLY

Because of the world's growing demand for food, we need to expand production each year just to stay even. And because we are at full production a set-back because of bad weather is extremely serious.

Climatologists believe that we are returning to "normal" climate which will mean less predictable weather than during the last 50 years.

↳ These experts believe that during that period climate has been abnormally stable and warm. ↳ The United States is situated much more favorably than the Soviet Union, but we too have been subject to erratic weather in recent years.

↳ Much of last year's market news related to the poor Soviet harvest of only 140 million tons resulting from serious drought conditions. And this year's expectation of 6.5 billion bushel corn crop in the U.S. hinges on adequate moisture in the weeks ahead.

The world has faced serious drought conditions already this year in Western Europe, especially France, Australia and

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Argentina L A favorite guessing game is the size of the Soviet harvest, improved new estimates running around 195 million tons.

In some areas of the world such as India and Bangladesh, crop expectations look very favorable with less need for concessional sales or grants and the opportunity to build some reserve stocks.

L The world's grain stocks or reserves may, according to the most recent U.S.D.A. estimate, increase by about 32 million tons during this crop year. But much of this will be accounted for in the U.S. where the wheat carry-over alone is expected to increase from 665 million bushels to 922 million bushels or more. ,

SINCE THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

At the time of the World Food Conference, there was a great deal of concern over future food supplies. A number of experts were pushing the doctrine of triage which means that the United States would decide that certain countries could not "make it", and we would proceed to write off these nations.

On the other hand, many in the Administration did not seem particularly concerned with the problem, and they have been content to "rely on the market." This has meant subjecting American farmers to sharply fluctuating prices and pressures over which they have little control.

I believe that we can and must develop a better program at both the international and domestic level to encourage production and protect consumers.

While the results from the World Food Conference have been slow in coming, a number of important initiatives have

been started. The International Fund for Agricultural Development may not reach its full target of one billion dollars, but we should pursue an agreement with the other contributing nations and get this program under way as soon as possible.

There has been a great deal of controversy surrounding the establishment of the World Food Council and the role which it will play in coordinating the World Food Conference initiatives. I hope that we can clarify the role of this organization and provide support for it.

There have been numerous meetings on the establishment of a world grain reserve with no sign of an agreement to date. There have been disagreements over both the size of such a reserve and also the purpose of it.

We should support a reserve program more vigorously than has been the case to date, and we need to resolve the issue over whether price or supply will be the trigger mechanism in releasing any reserve stocks.

There is a great deal more that we can do with our existing Public Law 480 program. We need to use food assistance under this program to encourage hungry countries to increase their own agricultural production. And the developing countries need to pay greater attention to agricultural policies, encouraging increased production and recognizing the importance of improved nutrition.

Agricultural research programs -- initiated under the banner of the green revolution -- offer the hope of increased production through the expanded use of new high-yielding seed varieties. ✓

We have taken steps, under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, to expand the role of the U.S. land grant universities in bringing their production and research capabilities to bear on the problems of agricultural production in the developing world. ✓

As an example, applying improved technology to Bangladesh's rice yields would lead to significant production increases since that country now produces at only 53 percent of the world average and 24 percent of the U.S. production average.

#### DEVELOPING A NATIONAL FOOD POLICY

Beyond increasing food production in the food deficit countries, the U.S. needs to develop a balanced national food policy.

Since we are the world's chief food surplus nation, this is basic and essential in helping to meet the world's food production needs and also keeping our own farmers in business.

I have introduced S. 3570, a bill to start this process. Under it, there would be a coordinator at the White House level to pull together all facets of a national food policy. ✓

There would also be established a Council of National Food Policy Advisers to analyze and advise the President on all aspects relating to food and agricultural policy. ✓

An advisory body would bring public and interested groups into the process of developing a coordinated food policy.

Some of the main ingredients of such a policy are as follows:

✓ First. A domestic agricultural policy which assures the American consumer of an adequate supply of high quality nutritious and safe foods at reasonable prices.

✓ Second. Income protection to farmers to encourage full production.

✓ Third. A market stabilization system that provides for the protection of domestic markets at the extremes through the accumulation and dispersal of reserve stocks of basic farm commodities.

✓ Fourth. A set of short supply management rules which would be implemented and disengaged when the estimated carry-over of a commodity is estimated to approach minimum levels.

✓ Fifth. An expanded long-range agricultural research program with emphasis placed on the most urgent priorities for increasing food production.

✓ Sixth. The increased collection, analysis and sharing of information on food production and utilization and climate.

✓ Seventh. A humanitarian food aid program appropriate to world needs and our own resources.

✓ Eighth. A comprehensive nutrition program outlining our nutritional goals and the means and techniques whereby these targets are to be accomplished.

These proposals would be a good beginning in pulling together all elements of a food policy. This approach would be of benefit to our producers and consumers as well as foreign buyers and the food deficit countries.

It represents an attempt to pull all elements together relating to food production and consumption. In my view, this will be one of the major tasks facing the new Administration in January.

I urge you to lend your support to this effort.



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