

Food Enough for All, but Millions Starve

(This is the second of three articles) By RUSSELL SHAW

Washington — B. R. Sen, director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, said last year that the "technical means" for increasing world food supplies to meet growing world population "are available."

But, Sen added in October in the introduction to an FAO survey of food resources in the second postwar decade, the task of doing so "cannot be accomplished easily."

The reason is obvious, FAO studies, Sen said, "indicate that the total food supplies of the developing countries will have to be increased fourfold in the next 25 years, to give their vastly increased populations an adequate, though in no sense a lavish diet."

What is the alternative to increased food output? Without such expansion, Sen warned, "Malthusian correctives will inexorably come into play." In short, the prospect is for starvation and social cataclysm on a hitherto unimagined scale unless the necessary steps are taken to bring world food production in line with growing world population.

It is no wonder that many people have turned to birth control as the solution. If the problem is to bring population and resources into balance, it seems as logical to concentrate on cutting population growth as on expanding resources. But it is not that simple.

Simon Williams, a U.S. economic development consultant writing in the November-December Harvard Business Review,

called birth control the "ultimate, rational" means of balancing world food supply and demand. But, Williams acknowledged, birth control "cannot be effective on a universal scale before the early years of the 21st century." Meanwhile, the world is faced now with "the likelihood of a massive famine, on a scale unimagined in the past." Williams called for vastly increased aid to the developing nations to help them expand agricultural output.

BIRTH CONTROL, then, whatever its merits or lack of merits as a long-term solution to the population resources dilemma, is no answer to the problem that now exists. As Archbishop Joseph A. Fernandes of New Delhi said recently: "The major problem in India is not population control; it is not with the non-existent. The major challenge is to assist in the human fulfillment and development of the people who are here."

The fact is that the resources do exist to feed the world population now and in the foreseeable future. FAO director Sen's statement to this effect has already been noted. And a panel at the White House Conference on International Cooperation last fall reached the same conclusion. "Progress in science and technology," it declared, "is showing us the way to produce

enough food to meet all existing needs."

Rep. Richard T. Hanna of California went further in the House of Representatives on Jan. 12. At present, he said, the world has the potential to feed 10 times its population for a total of some 30 billion people. Projections of the future world population, based on current growth rates, call for a total of only 6 or 7 billion by the year 2000.

Hanna said recent breakthroughs in the technology of food production make possible this dramatic potential. He singled out three in particular: new treatment methods for slowing down deterioration and decay, the development of new protein concentrates, and the new freeze-dry method of preserving food which can be reconstituted by the addition of water.

Other more familiar techniques of expanding food resources are on the scene, including the use of modern fertilizers. Japanese agriculture uses 246 pounds of fertilizer per acre per year, the United States 36 pounds, the Soviet Union 10, and food-short India only 2.6. There are signs that the Indian government is aware of this anomaly and is taking steps to correct it.

Population growth is not in itself an obstacle to economic development and human betterment. On the contrary, it has proven just the opposite in Europe and North America, where population expansion boosted economic growth.

The reason, as British economist Barbara Ward points out in her much praised book "The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations," is that, in the West, "the creation and expansion of the modern economic system came into being while the explosion of population was still in its early stages. In fact, as population grew the economy could grow with it."

The situation is quite different in the poor nations. There, for a number of reasons, the initial great spurt of population growth occurred before and independently of economic expansion.

The result, Miss Ward says, was that "more births, longer lives, sent population far beyond the capabilities of a stumbling economy." Thus the "grim dilemma" appeared in which "the continued expansion of population has constantly threatened to wipe out whatever surplus resources might be available for investment aimed at the expansion of the economy."

What is the solution? In Miss Ward's formulation: "The means of ending the disproportion between people and resources is to apply capital massively to the resources." And if the capital is not available — as it is not — in the poor na-

tions, then it must come from the rich nations. That means foreign aid.

But what about birth control? Is it not a shortcut to bringing about the balance between population and resources which all agree is necessary?

The fact is that, on a short-term basis, as Simon Williams pointed out, birth control is no answer to a problem that already exists and is rapidly growing worse. Birth control won't feed people already on the scene.

But even for the long term, many economists doubt that birth control is the point at which to begin seeking a solution. The question, essentially, is whether a lower population growth rate fosters economic expansion, or whether economic expansion fosters a lower rate of population growth.

There is much evidence to support the latter belief. The rate of population growth, it appears, in general tapers off where people are prosperous. It is where poverty is the rule that population growth skyrockets.

Nor is it evident that prosperous people necessarily limit their families by contraception. This phenomenon was clearly present in the 19th century, when modern contraceptives were not known. Sociologists at the time expressed serious alarm over the lower rate of reproduction among the upper social classes.

In any event, many econom-

ists are dubious about seeking to resolve the population resources dilemma by starting with population. Thus Miss Ward expresses skepticism about "any flat argument that stabilization of the population must come first."

"It is when people see more opportunities for better education," she notes, "that they begin to consider whether a smaller family might not be better for themselves and for their children. . . . There will doubtless continue to be considerable moral debate upon the means of limitation. But the decisive point is what millions of parents choose to do; and here, I think, history suggests strongly that a certain amount of modernization must occur before smaller families seem desirable."

The same thought was expressed recently by Dr. Stephen J. Plank of the Harvard University school of public health in a talk to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.


He said it is a fallacy to suppose that "we may be able to contracept our way to the Great Society." Stressing the need to raise the economic level of the poor first, both nationally and internationally he said, "If you give them no escape from poverty whether or not their families are large, they are not going to listen to talk about not having so many babies."

If this line of reasoning is correct, then economic development must precede a viable solution to the problem of population growth. The rich get richer and the poor get children; that is the long and short of it. The problem is to arrange for the poor to get richer, too.

THE MONTH OF ST. JOSEPH TRANT'S

CHURCH SUPPLIES AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

STATUES
BOOKS
PAMPHLETS
ST. JOSEPH ROSARIES



MEDALS

EVERYTHING TO HELP YOU IN YOUR DEVOTIONS TO THIS GREAT SAINT

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS NOW ON DISPLAY

THURSDAY TILL 9:00 P.M.

TRANT'S 96 Clinton Ave. N. 115 Franklin St. Phone 454-1818

Churches Join To Aid Starving

New York — (RNS) — Top Protestant and Catholic overseas relief officials in this country pledged full cooperation here with the effort launched jointly by the World Council of Churches and the Vatican to synchronize aid programs for famine victims in India and Africa.

Citing the particularly grim situation in India, Bishop Edward Swanson, executive director of Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, and Dr. David M. Stowe, head of the National Council of Churches' Division of Overseas Ministries, together urged all U.S. Protestants and Catholics to help avert the looming tragedy.

In a joint statement they said: "Confronted with the magnitude of the disastrous famine in India and the enormity of the suffering and death being visited upon uncounted millions of India's people, we of the Christian churches are conscience bound in justice and charity to raise our collective voices in their behalf."

Also, James MacCracken, director of the NCC's Church World Service agency, declared on his return from a trip to Geneva where the WCC endorsed the interreligious relief effort, that the India situation can be "world-shaking in its consequences."

"India needs help now in a gigantic program of worldwide concern," Mr. MacCracken said. "The German churches, both

Churches Join To Aid Starving

Protestant and Catholic, have already gone into action. Millions of people will starve."

The population program director, Dr. Roger Revelle, added that "the saddest part of the story is that it may be too late for us and the other rich countries to help very much."

U.S. church-related relief agencies, Bishop Swanson commented, are "working side-by-side" in cooperation with the U.S. government "and the government of India, and are bending every effort within their means to alleviate the acute suffering of the people of India."

The bishop said that Catholic Relief Services has increased its feeding program in India from 132 million to 200 million pounds and that a special shipment of 22 million pounds of flour is being rushed to the country for a special feeding project in six officially declared famine areas.

At Geneva, the WCC Central Committee unanimously endorsed an appeal for \$3 million from member Churches to support a three-year program aimed at increasing water resources, reclaiming land, improving agriculture and supporting other actions to "help remove the causes" of disaster.

In authorizing synchronization of relief programs with those of the Catholic Church, the WCC leaders approved the recommendation of a joint WCC-Catholic "working group" on emergency and development aid.




Nuns Seek Alms for Lepers

New Delhi — (RNS) — Mrs. Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, buys seals from two nuns of the Missionaries of Charity to mark anti-leprosy week in the country. The order operates several leper centers around India, including one in New Delhi, the capital. The missionaries of Charity were founded by Mother Teresa, a famous Albanian-born nun who has been decorated by the Indian government for meritorious service among the needy and dying in Indian slums.

Waldert: Recommended by your Eye Physician for 53 Years

On a Clear Day . . .

You can see forever! "Whatever your aspirations, just humming that song makes you seem almost there! But! Seeing takes healthy vision! When your Eye Physician has made his medical diagnosis, take his valued advice! Glasses or new lenses prescribed? Waldert service and exciting frames have that extra lilt to keep you humming happily!



Open Thursdays till 8:30

WALDERT BUILD OPTICIANS

66 EAST AVE. ★ 1380 MT. HOME AVE. IRONDEQUIT SHOPPING PLAZA 1140 CHILI AVE.

FINAL WINTER COAT CLEARANCE

SECOND FLOOR

Untrimmed wool coats
48.00 68.00
originally 90.00 to 140.00

Fur trimmed coats
98.00 108.00 128.00
originally 150.00 to 265.00

THIRD FLOOR

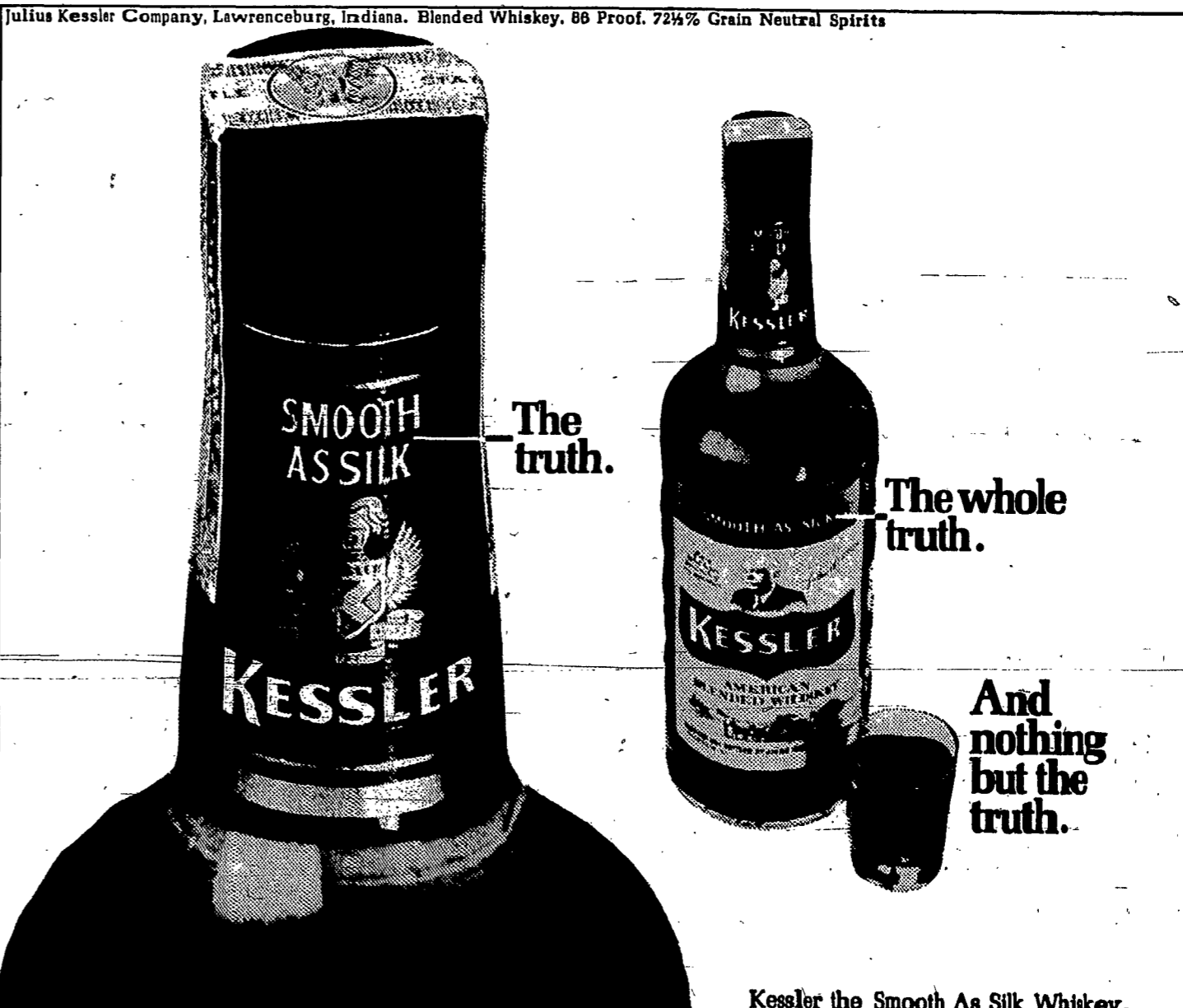
Untrimmed wool coats
38.00
originally 55.00 to 75.00

Fur trimmed coats
68.00 and 88.00
originally 100.00 to 140.00

Selections also at Culver-Ridge

B. FORMAN CO.

Julius Kessler Company, Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Blended Whiskey, 86 Proof, 72½% Grain Neutral Spirits



SMOOTH AS SILK The truth.

KESSLER The whole truth.

And nothing but the truth.

Kessler the Smooth As Silk Whiskey, Full 86 Proof.

Africa

By LNE WAT
(Special to the C from East Africa)

Tanzania — One of the latest "another through" in Africa bounces back to sexy surfers, a pack of Klansmen, Doris Day and cavalry finishes.

And Africa — for — is a lion in the rain forest into the Great-White-Hunt.

Nature is no more here than the view in glass.

Not only have mosquitos never seen a woman but they're not likely they visit a game park when a lion would charge African town bush have gone the helmets.

British author Alford writes that "90 of African animals exterminated forever the chances of preserving 10 per cent be a little better than and it may even be human instinct to kill living things on earth itself out last."

There are some gaudy pessimistic about-gardened animals they p declamation within. Their chief is more however.

John Owen, director of National Park that poaching and eventually will remain of Africa's wilderness only in these days.

But he thinks the will survive despite a population explosion for farming a parks will be operating on money sign enthusiasts and

Time

Worcester — (RNS) "is running out" for man in this country, Father Maurice O'here.

The Edmundite membered as the Negro Catholic parish Alabama, during the civil rights demonstration last year. He was his pastorate as a civil rights worker.

Father O'Connell, of novices for the S Edmund seminary Conn., told a Worcester Friday Club meeting next generation of America "will not as the janitor down

Dialo


Chicago — (RNS) ter understanding of city of Christian life here as a result of between Roman Catholic and Lutheran scholars.

The view was expressed in a second meeting of theologians and church which fine points of baptism were discussed for three days. The emphasis of the Lutheran conversations in the is to probe matters doctrine which are both Churches.

The official sessions being held by the Commission for Ecumenical Affairs and the National Council in its role national committee eran World Federation

Dr. Paul C. Emory, NLC executive and Auxiliary Bishop Murphy of Baltimore of the Bishops' Summit

Behind is a great Seagram The Sure



BEHIND IS A GREAT SEAGRAM THE SURE