

## Dangers In Delaying World Food & Agricultural Development Noted

UNIVERSITY PARK—Two members at Penn State University warned recently of the danger of delaying agricultural development efforts in areas of the world where food is becoming scarce.

As population exceeds the ability of a nation to produce foodstuffs, the cost of increasing food production rises considerably, declared Wayne A. Schutjer, economist, and Russell B. Dickerson, coordinator of international agricultural programs for the College of Agriculture.

"It is extremely difficult and expensive to conduct agricultural development programs where seed grain must be used to avoid starvation or where manure must be burned for fuel rather than being used as fertilizer," they stated.

Their comments were featured during a seminar held as part of a new program of international agricultural development in the College of Agriculture. Under the program, projects of technical assistance involving research and education are already underway in Argentina and India.

Schutjer suggested that United States aid policy should be tailored to fill gaps in the existing resources of nations receiving aid. This might vary among items such as new plant varieties, population control clinics, fertilizer credit or food aid.

"While opinions differ on the severity of the world food situation and the adequacy of resources and technology to solve the problem, most persons agree that mankind is involved in a race between the stork and the plow and that a war on hunger must be waged," he affirmed.

To bring population and food supply into balance, the speakers called for combined use of population control, increased agricultural production, and a more complete utilization of current production in countries where supplies are limited.

How successful these methods will become in solving food problems will depend upon the long-term efforts of the individual nations, they said. Supplies of grain and other food available from the United States and other nations with adequate diets should be considered only supplementary in meeting food shortages.

Sounding an optimistic note, they indicated history shows that nations facing food shortages have overcome the Malthusian dilemma of population outgrowing the food supply. They predicted many nations currently considered as having inadequate diets will reach this stage of development within the coming decade.

Having overcome food shortages, nations will develop programs designed to improve the material well being of their people, they concluded.

### ● Have You Heard (Continued from Page 15)

#### Ground Beef Popular Main Dish

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