

● FAO Official
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in rural districts where the raw material is produced.

"In order to reduce inequalities, consideration might be given to siting industries in areas where a highly productive agriculture cannot be developed," the article says.

Other ways in which rural employment could be extended are through public works programs which absorb much hu-

man labor. These include building roads, schools, irrigation and drainage work and — particularly during the agricultural slack season — conservation and afforestation.

"Such programs have been opposed in the past as costly and difficult to organize, and unless they are carefully handled they can give rise to inflationary pressure," says Abercrombie.

"However the emergence of a group of prosperous farmers

provides a taxable base which can help to pay for public works programs, while the improving food supply situation lessens the risk of inflation. The social and political need for these programs is also likely to become increasingly apparent in the next few years. It is essential, however, that when they are undertaken for social or political reasons this should be clearly understood and no attempt made to justify them economically."

Abercrombie warns against any slackening of effort in population control measures as a result of the temporary easing of the world food situation. Any measures taken to ameliorate the lot of subsistence farmers could be no more than palliatives.

"The need for them will be lessened, and the effectiveness increased of such measures as can be afforded, to the extent that the speed of population growth can be slowed down," he says.

The greatest danger is that the employment problems caused by rapid population growth could give rise to unrest and disorganization in rural areas on a scale which could jeopardize increased food production

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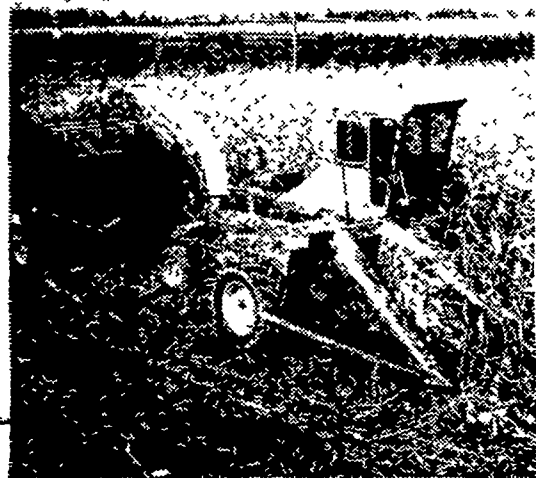
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