

Food supply may determine world peace outlook

CHICAGO — During a recent meeting here of some of the nation's top farmers, an agricultural scientist said that long-term world peace will be largely affected by food supply.

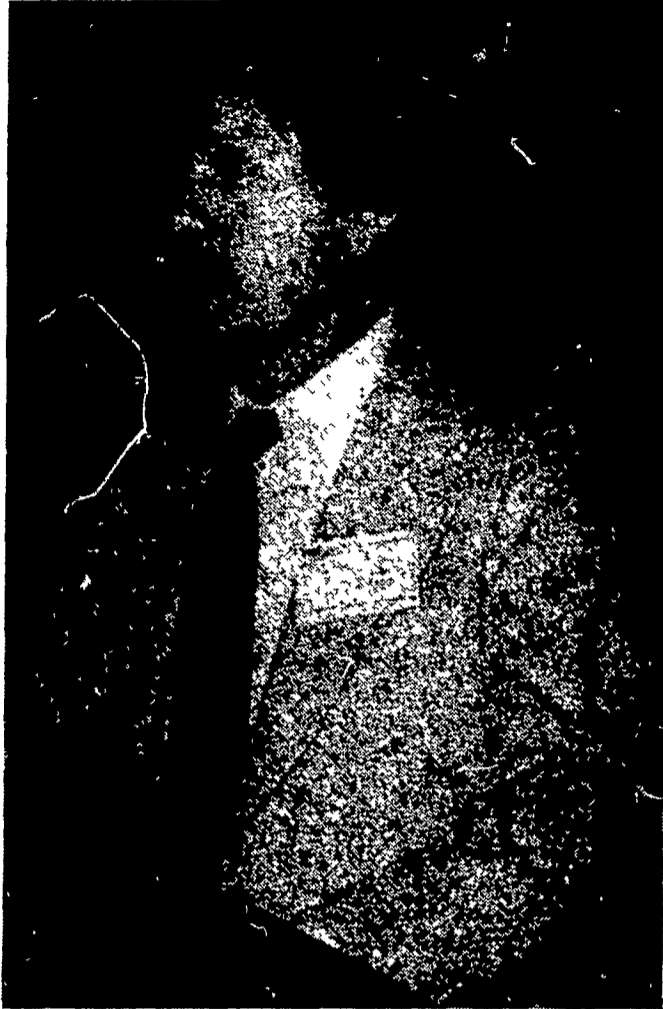
Dr. Charles Krull, vice-president of corn research for DeKalb AgResearch, Inc., told a gathering of top corn farmers and some of the nation's farm media that the importance of agriculture in the world picture has virtually gone unnoticed.

"Within the past decade only," Krull said, "there has been an increased realization that the food supply is much less abundant and reliable in the rest of the world. Perhaps 30 per cent of the world population get enough to eat, another third have an inadequate diet while the remainder live on the verge of actual starvation."

The scientist said that an adequate food supply is the basis for not only civilization as we know it, but also serves as a basis for world peace.

"Many of our fellow countrymen often seem to lose sight of this," Krull explained, "and there is often confusion about the priorities in our most basic industry."

The former Rockefeller Foundation researcher went on to say he understands why there is confusion. Since food and fiber are produced by such a small percentage of the population, many



Many Americans have no concept of what agriculture is all about, claims Dr. Charles Krull of DeKalb AgResearch, Inc. Agriculture and its role need to be put into better perspective, the researcher says.

Americans have no concept of what agriculture is about. "Farmers comprise about two per cent of our population, which means that each U.S. farmer feeds

50 fellow countrymen and about 30 people in other countries," Krull said. Krull said agriculture and its role need to be put into better perspective.

"Americans do not realize how important it is to this country. Although most people here, as well as abroad, think of the U.S. as an industrialized society, a high percentage of our export income is from grain," Krull said. "And, agricultural exports were the one high spot in our dismal 1978 balance-of-payments picture."

Krull, who once was a working colleague of Dr. Norman Borlaug, winner of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize,

said that the response in the world press to this 1970 peace prize was gratifying, but he has been "shocked and angered" by subsequent criticisms by so-called intellectuals.

"What they maintain is that it was a mistake to introduce high input agriculture to these countries when there is a world shortage of energy and that these people are even now worse off in food supply than before," the executive said.

He added that this can

easily be shown to be a fallacy and explained why.

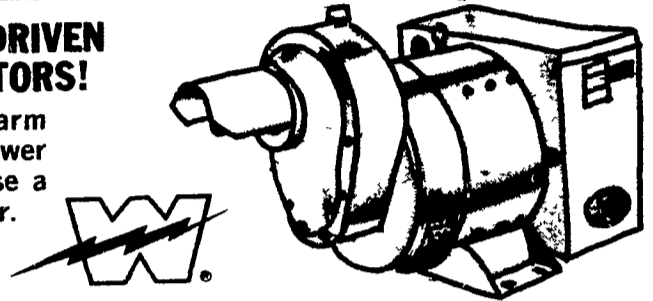
"Prior to 1968, the highest national production in India was 12 million tons of wheat. With the introduction of fertilizer-responsive wheat varieties and the use of fertilizer, that rose to nearly 30 million tons in five short years. Literally millions of people have been saved from certain death by starvation."

"What these so-called experts are really saying, although they don't have the

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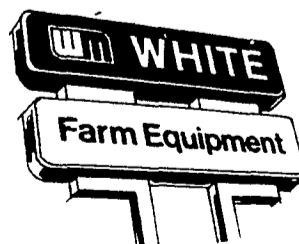
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