

Work Force Will Double By 2000

GENEVA - By 1985, the world's work force will be 30 per cent larger than it was in 1970, the International Labor Organization predicts.

"With present population growth rates," a recent ILO report states, "we will need by the end of this century twice as much food, water and power - and twice as many jobs - merely to maintain the present unsatisfactory standard of living for most of the world's people."

Noting that population is growing at the rate of nearly 100 people a minute, ILO statisticians say that by the year 2000 "the total population of our planet is expected to reach 6,500,000,000," or four times what it was at the start of this century.

Developing Countries

This means, they add, that within less than 30 years from now, there will be an additional 2,900,000,000 human beings requiring food,

clothing, shelter and jobs. Much of this increase will come in the developing countries, precisely in those areas where housing and employment remain the greatest problems.

The report points out that 2,542,000,000 people were living in the developing areas of the globe in 1970, compared with 1,090,000,000 in the industrialized areas, and birthrates in the developing countries are running far ahead of the industrialized nations.

The report, citing the needs for limiting population growth, warns: "The staggering growth of population has all but wiped out recent economic gains in many developing countries. A rising gross national product means little when it must cover the needs of so many newcomers each year."

Asia Singled Out

Supporting the ILO fin-

dings, Naval Tata of the organization's governing body said they are particularly applicable in Asia.

"Uncontrolled population growth is the most important single factor that threatens to neutralize and nullify all the genuine efforts of Asian countries towards economic emancipation," he said.

Among factors contributing to population and demographic pressures, the ILO describes the continuing movement from rural to urban areas. As more young people continue to leave farms and villages to seek employment in towns and cities, rural population is expected to show an overall increase of perhaps 50 per cent by the end of this century, compared with an almost 250 per cent increase in urban growth.

"Few of these migrants arrive in the city with any industrial skills, and few receive any training after they arrive,"

the report adds.

Live Longer

It all points out that advances in medical science mean that in most parts of the developing world people now live longer than they did just 20 years ago, while fewer infants and children succumb to disease.

But the beneficial results of these advances are offset by the fact that housing, training, and jobs for many of these people do not exist and they are doomed to lives of poverty.

"In the industrialized countries, many women now go out to work," the ILO report continues, "and although they tend to delay starting a family and consequently limit the number of children they bear."

"In most developing countries, however, the work of the women, except for a tiny minority, is still at home and in the fields and does not play the same role in determining

the age of marriage or the size of families."

Opportunity for Women

The report suggests programs offering women greater education and employment opportunities could be a major influence in reducing birth rates.

Commenting on the organization's findings, ILO Director-General Wilfred Jenks said present population trends continue to "frustrate efforts toward attaining basic objectives in ILO's own sphere of responsibility: creation of fuller and more productive employment, raising the skills of the labor force, and improving the levels of living and welfare of workers."

"For many developing countries," Jenks added, no lasting solution of the employment problem can be envisaged without moderating the excessively high rates of population growth that now prevail."

'Of This and That'

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And newspapers! When all else failed, two or three sheets of newspaper kept him happy for a long time. They rattled so nicely! And crumpled so well! (We wondered if the "printer's ink" he got all over his face and his fingers might be prophetic!)

At any rate, we thought we had forgotten about some of those things!

But had we really?! It all came back so easily, and seemed so natural and right. We hadn't forgotten how to rock and sing, how to put shirts, socks and pajamas on and take them off! Or how to spoon-feed cereal, fruits and vegetables. Or how to

"jiggle" the boodle buggy a bit if he needed encouragement in going to sleep!

And the rewards for these things, which were a pleasure in themselves, were many.

We watched with fascination as he began to "crawl" on his stomach, on a palette on the floor, to reach a beloved toy.

We heard his dear little baby coos and gurgles as he investigated a new object with his soft little fingers - and his mouth!

We were entranced with his first enchanting, welcoming smile in the morning, and his last sleepy murmur at night.

He squirmed, wriggled, and bounced his way straight

into our hearts!

Twenty-two years is a long time, but it is comforting to know that the mother instinct is no respecter of the passage of time! A few things in this topsy-turvy world just DON'T change!

We have gotten reports of crocus, wild geese, snowdrops, and other evidences of the coming of spring.

But the most tangible evidence at hour house is a score of pussywillow branches, which we cut on Friday, and which the warmth of the house has already turned into stems of fluffy little gray balls!

Among the things at our house which have helped us

get through the long, mostly gray months of winter, are a terrarium and a little pine tree.

The terrarium was a Christmas gift. It is nicely planted, with a variety of foliage plants and moss. In amongst the plants are a plastic lizard, a China dog, and a few other interesting objects.

It must be "balanced" just right, because it is thriving, without any additional water at any time, or any care from us. It is a bit of the outdoors brought indoors, and reminds us of the wonderful months of spring, summer and autumn.

The little pine tree also was a Christmas gift. Handsomely potted, it was only about 12 inches tall

when we got it, but it has put out several new shoots, and we like to think of the day when it may grow into a tall pine tree! For the present, it sits in the kitchen window above the sink, and adds color and interest, with its green branches and its bright red pot!

MAIN STREET

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It's a fact that most businessmen have, over the years, despite the headaches and backaches, enjoyed their businesses. Professional men, too, derive a certain self satisfaction and, thus, "fun" from performing the services they render and will

admit to the fact.

Even in Washington, D.C., - at what is supposed to be the hub of the world and in an atmosphere as stimulating and as challenging as it is possible to find - Congressman Howard Robison of New York recently said, "It's just not fun anymore..."

Helping to guide the ship of state is not necessarily supposed to be fun, but anything as important should not be completely grim, either.

And, the grimness is emphasized by the mounting number of congressmen who are "retiring" deciding that they will not stand for reelection.

Population Pressure Is Challenge

LONDON - The world's food producers must become more internationally oriented in their thinking, according to the head of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

FAO Director-General Addeke H. Boerma said nations continuously adjust agricultural program to meet their changing needs, but in the process "as often as not, only help to worsen the problems of other countries."

Boerma said what is needed today is agricultural production within "a fully global context." And he saw increased food production as "the most important challenge facing world agriculture in the 1970's and 1980's."

He viewed the development of high-yield grains in recent years - the so-called "Green Revolution" - as the principal hope for the short-term increase in agricultural produc-

tivity, but added that some promises made for the new hybrids were premature.

Research Needed

Acknowledging that the new seed varieties offer hope of doubling and tripling yields, he told members of the Royal Society here the "euphoria that greeted them initially has been replaced by a widespread recognition that a great deal has to be done technically to adapt them to local conditions, as well as in planning and organization, before their potential can be realized."

Boerma said that population pressure on global resources is forcing scientists to consider other factors besides "just yield per acre." Among these he listed the need to economize on scarce factors of production, "such as land, water and capital."

Sounding a conservation note, the FAO head urged greater research into what he

termed "yield-saving" grains which could supply needed food with less strain on the earth's resources.

Broad Cultivation

He said man has reached the point where he must concentrate on crops that conserve soil and water, as well as put food in the mouths of the world's hungry. This means further research into grains that have short growing seasons and resist drought, heat, cold, disease and pests. Such crops, which continually are being studied at experimental stations in many nations, are essential as the demand for more food forces cultivation of marginal lands, Boerma explained.

Noting that multiple crop farming is limited at present to irrigated and high rainfall areas with mild temperatures that "probably do not occupy more than 30 per cent of the world's potentially arable

land," Boerma predicted that increased attention will be devoted to less favored ecological zones. He said this will be necessary "both to meet longer-term food needs and to alleviate social inequities."

Boerma pointed out that nearly 90 per cent of all spending on agricultural research is confined to the developed countries, where the problem is not so much how to increase production as to reduce "the total number of people in farming and provide those who remain on the land with higher incomes."

Imbalance Seen

In the developing countries, where he observed "the really immense and urgent problems" are to be found, Boerma said the immediate task is to increase "production fast enough to ensure the food supplies of millions of people

whose numbers are growing all the time."

He noted that in the developing countries "in the first two years of the 1970's, population actually grew faster than production." Boerma said these countries will need to increase their agricultural productivity by about 4 per cent annually for at least well into the 1980's, to feed their growing populations. But he added that agricultural increases in most countries have been well below that level."

It is because of these imbalances that agricultural efforts must be focused more sharply on an international rather than a national scale today, he concluded. The FAO director called for a greater sharing of agricultural technology between nations, with more agriculture research in developing countries.