

of United States cotton. At the same time, Japanese and Hong Kong exports of cotton textiles to the United States have been increasing.

Underlying these protectionist policies—and perhaps in part because of these policies—forces are at work which have been creating severe problems of readjustment for populations within several of the Western nations. This is particularly true in the United States where a new technological revolution in farming has been in progress for at least two decades. That the price-support and other agricultural programs in the United States tend to support the marginal farmer and retard increases in productivity is no doubt true. Even so, the productivity increases in agriculture have been more than double those of the nonagricultural sector of the economy over the past two decades. Between 1947 and 1960, for example, the average annual increase in output per man-hour worked in agriculture was 5.8 percent while the average increase in the nonagricultural sector of the economy was 2.8 percent.<sup>7</sup> This rapid increase in output has resulted in a prolonged and sharp decline in agricultural employment, with the result that over the past 20 years approximately a million people a year have migrated from the rural areas to the cities, or to the suburbs of the cities. In the United States, and to a lesser extent in a few other Western countries, the rural populations have shown an absolute decline during the past decade or two.

In the United States, this unprecedented movement of rural populations into the cities continues to cause severe strains. In the early postwar years, when industry was making a rapid expansion and in need of an expanding labor force, the rural migrants to the cities were readily absorbed in productive operations. In more recent years, however, there has been substantial adoption of automation techniques in industry. Many workers moving to the cities are unable to find jobs. Indeed, total employment in manufacturing operations has been declining. Conversely, in any migration movement many people are reluctant and slow to leave long-established homes even after employment opportunities in the area have dried up.

If the industrialized countries are to achieve the benefits of a more efficient division of labor and better unity in pursuit of their common causes, it would appear that they face some difficult task in evolving policies to: (1) reduce their respected barriers to trade in agricultural products, (2) encourage the shift and absorption of workers, capital and land from agricultural of nonagricultural pursuits, and (3) make a larger contribution, and a more equitably shared contribution, to the food needs of the underdeveloped countries while these countries are achieving their own agricultural and industrial revolutions.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, USDL 4698.