

the growth of industrialization showed up as an increase of 6 to 7 percentage points per decade in the proportion engaged in nonagricultural occupations.² And under these changing conditions, favorable to both agriculture and industry, our national income per capita did not double every 20 years.

Any country today that is 60 to 80 percent agricultural may have good reason to expect a rise in its per capita income during the present decade as it makes use of modern know-how and can make full use of the assistance the industrialized West is making available. But it is not likely that any such country, which typically has a per capita income of only \$100 or \$200, can expect to see in the next 5 or 10 years a doubling of even such low per capita incomes. Therefore no great immediate improvement in the nutritional gaps can be expected from economic projects alone.

Since it is the next few years that are crucial to countries subjected to Communist pressures, it is necessary to examine the nutritional gaps for more effective, more direct, more immediate ways of meeting the essential food requirements of undernourished people in the more immediate future, while the slower programs and processes of economic development lay the basis for greater improvement in living standards later on.

The need for additional sources of protein

When we examine the world's nutritional gap closely we find that the basic shortage is in protein food, that the shortage is concentrated very largely among infants and children of preschool age. The voluntary relief agencies, primarily responsible for carrying out our foreign feeding programs reach millions of needy persons, but these represent a very small part of the total needing nutritional help. Furthermore, the supply of protein foods that can be made available to the relief agencies actually is not in the abundance generally supposed. The hard fact is that if the relief agencies were to arrange with the governments of the recipient countries to distribute twice as much protein food as they are now distributing under title III of Public Law 480, we would not be able to supply the needed foods. The main item of food for the young among the needy is milk and we are not in a position today, and are not likely to be in the next 5 years, to materially expand the donations of dry skim milk. Here are some of the facts:

All responsible agencies and nutrition experts engaged in the problems of feeding the world's undernourished agree that the great need is in protein food. This is the view of the United Nations organizations dealing with food and agriculture, child feeding and world health, and of many nutritionists in the United States and all over the world. Speaking recently on the subject, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., M.D. and director of the Institute of Nutrition Science, Columbia University, said:

There seems little doubt protein malnutrition is the most widespread form of deficiency disease today. Although nutritional anemia, goiter, and the various vitamin deficiencies continue to be major problems for certain segments of the population, from a world standpoint, protein malnutrition far exceeds these in importance.

There is increasing evidence that protein malnutrition accounts for a major part of the deaths of children between weaning and school age in many parts of

² (See chapter on "Agricultural Capacity," by L. H. Bean in "America's Needs and Resources." (New York, 1955), p. 806.