

Senator MILLER. I am not talking about what it is now, I am talking about what it can be. And your statement is that many of the less-developed countries cannot be expected to become fully self-sufficient.

Mr. McASHAN. Well, I should possibly have said, for many, many years, until they change their systems in India, and until they are willing to get rid of some of their prejudices that we are all familiar with. For example, India is one of the greatest producers of peanuts in the world. They extract the oil from those peanuts and use the oil for cooking purposes, but they will not allow the meal to be used for human food, although peanut meal is very high in protein, and is just exactly what their children ought to be fed. They have got to get rid of those kinds of prejudices first.

Senator MILLER. In our food aid program to India, as you probably know—

Chairman BOGGS. I am quite curious: why won't they?

Mr. McASHAN. As I understand it, it is a matter of their religion.

Chairman BOGGS. The meal for peanuts.

Mr. McASHAN. Yes, I don't know why. It is used for fertilizer only.

Senator MILLER. In our food aid program for India, as you probably know, we concentrate on wheat and other food grains. And under their new 5-year program they have, I think, a reasonable basis for hoping that by 1971 or 1972, with a reasonable amount of rainfall, and by breaking the fertilizer bottleneck, which they hope to do, that they can be self-sufficient in food grains. Now, this peanut matter may have some impact. But I would say that it would be very small compared to the food grains problem. And I was wondering whether or not you would accept that 5-year target. Or do you think that that is just a gesture of futility?

Mr. McASHAN. No, I wouldn't call it futile in any respect. I hope they do, but I don't know that they can.

Senator MILLER. We all hope that they do. But when you were talking about the fact that you expect many of these countries will not be able to become self-sufficient for many, many years, you included India in that category?

Mr. McASHAN. Yes. And the rate of their population increase will require a terrific improvement in their agriculture to keep pace with it.

Senator MILLER. There is no question but what it will require improvement. But with the hybrid seeds and with fertilizer, and with the tremendous amount of national effort with respect to irrigation and water wells, and with a reasonable degree of rainfall, why would you think it would be many, many years before India could become reasonably self-sufficient, certainly in food grains?

Mr. McASHAN. As much as anything from their past record.

But I certainly hope that they do, sir. It would be great if they do. The only point that I was making was that they could buy our wheat from our farmers with some of the other materials that they might do better with, that they might be better equipped to produce and export and pay for their wheat. That would be my only point.

Senator MILLER. Well, if they have the hybrid seeds and the fertil-