

The relation of the Oahe irrigation unit, and others of its kind, to the world food situation and to domestic population imbalance are not discussed in the unit report. They are worthy of your consideration.

Consider first the world food situation.

Present national policy is to help developing nations help themselves, to provide technical assistance but provide food only as needed while self-help is getting underway or on a disaster basis.

The report of the President's Scientific Advisory Committee on the World Food Problem states that family planning must be accepted as an important part of the effort to bring population and food into balance in developing countries. The same report also states, however, that birth control must be considered as a long-range element of planning since its effects will not be felt materially until the next generation.

How long it will take developing nations to acquire the ability to feed themselves is indeed a big question. Massive education, attitude changes, transportation, and consumer buying power are tasks and problems that make the date uncertain.

Even American agricultural scientists face the problem of experimentation with tropical crops before they are in a position to lend extensive aid in many developing countries. Most of the agricultural scientific knowledge relates to crops of the temperate zones.

The United States has unused land resources that can be tapped to help fill this time gap. But a USDA report, "Food for Freedom," dated February 10, 1966, shows that even if all available land resources were allocated to food production and allowing for advanced technology, the world food demand would exceed the ability of the United States to supply by 1984.

Diversion of substantial amounts of U.S.-produced food to developing nations for the foreseeable future then appears inevitable in spite of their self-help efforts.

In university laboratories across the Nation, scientists are striving for new and better methods of producing more and better food and fiber. But I wish to remind you that science, of and by itself, cannot develop arable land. Only the institutions of Federal, State, and local government are equipped for this task.

The United States is about to dispute the Malthusian theory. The Nation needs to muster all available forces. Irrigation of arable land is one of these forces.

In my discussion of the local interests as pertained to the Oahe irrigation unit, I expressed concern over the out-migration of South Dakota people.

In a recent USDA publication, "Agriculture/2000," we are reminded that, and I quote:

By the turn of the century, if present trends continue unchecked, New York (city) will have become part of a super megalopolis stretching from present-day Boston south to Washington, D.C., and containing 56 million people. This strip city, and four other strips like it, will house 174 million Americans on urbanized land ranging in density from 660 to 2,600 people per square mile.

History is full of incidents where nations have fought wars to obtain room in which to live. The problems of congestion are already all too apparent in our own land. Transportation problems, smog, housing, recreation needs, and general unrest are of national concern.