

made to create a great reservoir of veterinary medical knowledge and manpower.

Dr. M. R. Clarkson, Executive Secretary of the American Veterinary Medical Association, said in a public symposium of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences last June:

"On the whole . . . world animal agriculture today presents a vast potential for the production of foods, sufficiently large to satisfy the world's need for animal proteins of high quality. Without in any way underestimating the economic, ecologic, and logistic factors adversely affecting the utilization of this potential, particularly in the developing countries, I suggest that the greatest single obstacle to meeting the world's requirements for food products of animal origin is the crippling and unnecessary drain incessantly inflicted upon these resources by major infectious and parasitic animal diseases. Adequate disease control is the first and fundamental 'must' in successful meat, milk, and egg production."

A statement by the National Academy of Science last year spoke to the essentiality of veterinary medical services when it said:

"That animal diseases are economically crippling is clearly evident. That they are unnecessary has been amply illustrated wherever the introduction of veterinary medical service has led to the control of once rampant animals diseases Faced with the two-pronged task of feeding its own growing population, and rendering aid to those struggling desperately for the basic necessities of life, the United States can no longer afford any delay in opening up to its fullest a source of food unequalled by any other reservoir of life-sustaining substance The National Academy of Science calls upon and urgently requests the Federal government and the scientific community in every stratum of its endeavors to join hands in establishing, developing, and supporting accelerated national and international programs aimed at the control and eradication of animal diseases."

Annual savings resulting from the elimination of bovine piroplasmiasis (Texas fever), from the United States equal the total cost of its eradication. The control of bovine tuberculosis provides a monetary savings every two years equal to the cost of the control program. Although individually less spectacular, there are a host of more insidious, yet debilitating, animal health and parasite problems which collectively are such costly handicaps to efficient, productive, and profitable livestock production that the United States can no longer afford to delay their control.

The costs of animal diseases vary from 15% of potential animal yield in the developed countries to as high as 50% in some of the developing countries. These great losses have been endured through the ages, but there is now a new and pressing urgency to limit this unnecessary toll. The world has now undergone great and unprecedented changes which require more effective disease control if the livestock industry is to thrive and fulfill its potential in the production of food for man.

America is the safest place in the world in which to invest in and produce livestock products. We have a veterinary medical profession in this country which is unexcelled anywhere in all of history. Yet, in the United States alone, we sacrifice to animal diseases and parasites a staggering 2¾ billion dollars worth of animal products each year.

A United States population of 600 million people is not going to occur overnight some 100 years from now. It will be a progressive increase which has already begun. It is not futuristic and we must begin to face it today. The gap between existing food supplies and essential food requirements is changing, and the change is not for a better fed people. We have a crucial challenge before us, one which is made sharp by physical states of desperation. The challenge is to raise the level of animal health and productivity in the United States and throughout the world to meet the essential animal protein food needs of an expanding population.

If the challenge is to be met, if hunger and starvation are to be conquered, then, increased attention must be given to the wastes of our potential food resources.

A summary of the President's Science Advisory Committee Report on The World Food Problem, released June 18, 1967, said:

"The report warns against the false hope that some 'panacea' will appear as an easy answer to worldwide food shortages and decries the publicity accorded to synthesis of food from petroleum, food from algae, and similar processes as raising false hopes and undoubtedly lessening public concern about the seriousness of the food supply in the developing nations . . ."