$22.6 billion. In 1965, the food bill for a much larger population was up to $77.6 billion. Farmers got only $3 billion more—and the marketing cost was up $29.5 billion!

### REAL FOOD COSTS LOWER

An hour's labor buys more food than at any time in our history. Food prices are not as high as they seem. The average factory worker can buy more food now with an hour of labor than at any other time in history.

Incomes have been rising twice as fast as food costs. This makes the real cost of food lower. Table II shows the increase in the purchasing power of an hour's factory wage between 1957 and 1965, and the percentage increase.

TABLE II

| | 1957 | 1965 | Percent increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eggs | 3.7 doz | 5 doz | 35 |
| Butter | 2.8 lbs | 3.5 lbs | 25 |
| Milk | 8.4 qts | 9.9 qts | 14 |
| Steak | 2.1 lbs | 2.4 lbs | 14 |
| Bread | 11 lbs | 12.5 lbs | 14 |
| Pork chops | 2.4 lbs | 2.7 lbs | 12 |

### FARM ECONOMY VITAL SEGMENT

Food production is America's biggest business. It is three times larger than automobile manufacturing, bigger than steel, and bigger than aerospace. The developments in this great industry may not be as dramatic as space travel, but they seem more important to the people of the United States and to the world.

Farming and marketing industries not only are important because they supply food—they also represent a substantial portion of the country's business activity.

What is good for farmers usually is good for the nation's economy. Production and marketing of food amounted to $77.6 billion in 1966, the automobile industry produced $23 billion, the steel industry produced $21 billion, and the aerospace industry produced $20 billion.

The spectacular improvement in farm production has been achieved primarily because farmers have been willing to invest in the products of a wide range of U.S. industry.

Farmers are pumping billions every year into the bloodstream of the economy. They spend nearly 70 per cent of their gross income for the inputs needed to run their farms. The capital and operating investments of the farmers benefit every sector of the American economy.

In 1965 farmers purchased and spent:

$3 billion for tractors and other machinery
$2.1 billion for automobiles
$1.6 billion for fertilizer
$1.5 billion for petroleum, fuel and oil.

One out of every 15 new trucks is sold to a farmer.

A high level of farm efficiency is necessary to make a country prosperous. In the poor, underdeveloped countries of the world almost all of the population is engaged in the race to keep a single step ahead of starvation. There are few people left over to develop an industrial base.

Back in 1880, when the United States was an underdeveloped frontier country, 85 per cent of the population was on the farm. There has been a steady drop in the farm population ever since—and it isn't over yet.

Today, one farm worker, using modern technology, supplies the food and fiber for 37 people. That leaves most of the others to contribute to further expansion of the gross national product.

### RURAL YOUTH LEAVES

The most important crop of all is harvested every spring in the farm communities across the country. It is the class of high school graduates. A very high percentage of these boys and girls immediately move to the cities to join the urban labor force.