

Cascino Urges Ag Leaders To Help Hungry

Members of Texas A&M's Agricultural Study Convocation were urged Monday to help in the fight against world hunger through abrupt changes in economic thinking and by shedding "provincial interests."

A. E. Cascino, vice president for sales of International Minerals, Inc., in Skokie, Ill., said a "great transition" is underway. The United States has operated in an economy dominated by agricultural surpluses, but if it is to help feed the world, it must learn to live with the world shift to a food-deficient economy.

"The challenge is whether or not you can meet this adjustment," the speaker said. "It means a sudden 180-degree turn in your social, economic and political outlook. It will be tough, almost impossible for some of you."

About 175 agricultural leaders in Texas met at A&M Monday and Tuesday to start a study of the state's agricultural industry. The project was requested by the A&M Board of Directors because of the continuing importance of agriculture to the Texas economy, its increasing complexity, and the state-wide responsibility of A&M to the industry, University President Earl Rudder said.

An internal study by A&M College of Agriculture staff members has just been completed as a possible reference for the external study group.

Cascino emphasized that the group should keep the world food situation in mind in their study.

"The most important thing is to get rid of provincial interests and bias," he said. "You can't think entirely as citizens of Texas or the United States. There are no political boundaries. You are citizens of the world, producing food for the world."

He cautioned that if thinking continues to be weighted with the food surplus economy philosophy, the study's conclusions will be "out of step and worthless."

The speaker said the transition is taking place because hunger is the world's biggest problem and food is the greatest need. If this fact is overlooked, the situation will worsen because man's ability to reproduce himself exceeds his ability to produce food.

Although only four per cent of earth's surface is arable, world hunger can be whipped, Cascino emphasized.

"We have the know-how to lick the problem. There is clear evidence that we are extracting only five percent of the world's food potential. And we have already experienced that yields can be boosted 15 to 20 times," Cascino said.

F. R. Wilcox of the American Arbitration Association at Pasadena, Calif., talked on agricultural products marketing and said farm people can no longer leave merchandising of their products to other persons.

"Through group action of various kinds, producers will find it necessary to advertise and merchandise to the extent of expenditures which, in some instances, will be as much as 10 to 20 per cent of the wholesale price," he pointed out.

CE Unit Receives ASTM Membership

The Department of Civil Engineering of Texas A&M was awarded an honorary 50-year membership in the American Society for Testing and Materials at its annual meeting in Atlantic City, N. J.

Representing President Earl Rudder in accepting the award was Professor Bob M. Gallaway of the CE department.

The registered professional engineer is a member of ASTM committees concerned with highway materials and pavement skid resistance. He also holds a research engineer post with the Texas Transportation Institute.

Gallaway and TTI graduate research assistant Poduru M. K. Gandhi of India are co-authors of a paper, "Viscosity Effects on Stress-Strain and Volume Change Characteristics of Asphaltic Concrete," presented at the meeting.

Gallaway consulted with the U. S. Naval Civil Engineering Research Laboratory in Washington, D. C., Monday to develop a long range research program on flexible pavements for naval airfields.

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