

Ag moratorium proposed for developing nations

HOUSTON—An internationally known author and agricultural consultant yesterday proposed a moratorium on agricultural research in all the developing nations where the population growth is higher than the world average.

Dr. William Paddock of Washington, D.C., a consultant in tropical agriculture, suggested the moratorium at the annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society and the Society of Nematologists.

Paddock's proposal was spurred by the continuing population explosion throughout the world especially in undeveloped countries. "Most of the world's population problems today are due to too many people on the earth. There is not a shortage of food, but a longage of people."

"Population growth is cancer that will destroy us all," Paddock said. "We cannot control a cancer by feeding it. And this is what we are doing by increasing agricultural research in the poor countries. This allows for more food production

which in turn leads to increasing population. The lives saved today by additional food will be paid for by lives lost in the future."

Author of the book "Famine 1975," Paddock said that world population has increased from one billion 125 years ago to well over 4 billion at present. "Modern medicine gave the world death control (by increasing life span) without birth control."

He forecast a 90 percent population increase in developing nations over the next 20 years. Paddock said that the population of Mexico will reach the size of China in the next 70 years if its population continues to grow at the present rate. The survival of many Mexicans depends on immigration into the United States, he said.

"Food production and population growth are on a collision course that can only be avoided by curbing the population," Paddock said. "Increasing food production through agricultural technology will only add to human suffering in the developing countries."

Also speaking at the convention was Dr. Georg Borgstrom, professor of nutrition and geography at Michigan State University. He too voiced concern over the world's population growth. "We're in an unprecedented situation. With two-thirds of the world's population inadequately fed, how are we going to take care of another one billion people in the next 10 years?" he asked.

Borgstrom said that more efficient use must be made of the resources that go into food production. He said that too much fossil fuel is tied up in food production.

"We're using far too much energy in food production throughout the world," Borgstrom said. "For example, one glass of milk requires the use of one-half glass diesel fuel and one pound of hamburger requires the use of three pounds of coal."

"Our energy returns in food production today continue to decline. Yet, our usage of energy continues to mushroom and will double in the next 14 years," he said. "Our world energy use is increasing more than twice the rate of the world population growth. The gap continues to widen between the units of energy consumed and the units of food protein produced."

A third speaker, Dr. Daniel Janzen of the University of Michigan, took a look at the tropical areas of the food production. "The tropics do not mean more food. Much of the land is already in production, and little of the remainder is adaptable to food production. Much of the land is so poor that production costs would be astronomical," Janzen said.

"Furthermore, if the land was to be developed we would be destroying the habitat of many native people who are concerned with raising families. This would be like castrating them."

"Far-sighted, long range planning is essential if any of the tropical land is to be used for future food production," he said.

This day

August 13, 1846 — On this day, one hundred and twenty-nine years ago, Captain John C. Fremont led U.S. Army troops into Los Angeles. This was during the Mexican War. When the peace treaty was finally signed in 1848, California became part of the United States.

Editor's notes

Whale of a tale

The latest issue of 'Conservation News', a bulletin printed by the National Wildlife Federation, contains at least one interesting item.

In the bulletin was the sad tale of a sick baby whale. According to an unconfirmed Associated Press report, the whale, believed to be a variety of pygmy sperm whale, had washed up on Miami Beach. The report states that the whale was then set upon and stabbed to death by a mob.

The federation bulletin says that some have speculated the cause of the incident to be a recent showing in the Miami area of the movie JAWS.

Apparently some people don't know their shark from a whale on the beach.

It is also interesting to note that according to the Federal government, the sick baby whale had a perfect right to wash up on Miami Beach.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act clearly states that it is against the law to wantonly stab to death a pygmy sperm whale, or any other marine mammal for that matter.

Marine mammals therefore should take heart. The U.S. government will protect you from crazy beachgoers.

The Battalion

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3-C Corral

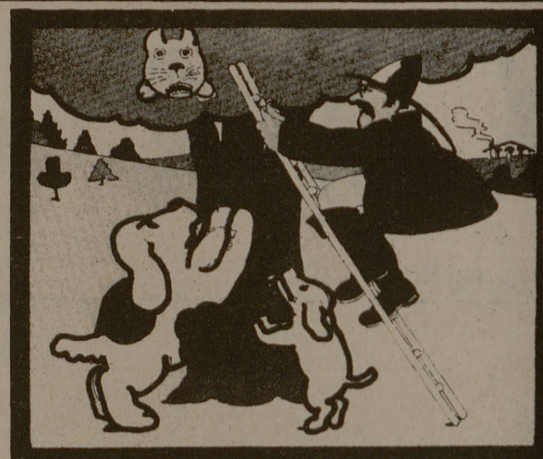
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