

FOOD PRODUCTION GAINS

The most significant food production increases in the developing regions this year were in Africa and the Near East, where strong rises in production contrasted with declines in both regions in 1977.

This was revealed recently by the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Council meeting in Rome. There were solid gains in harvests in North and West Africa, and African crops of wheat, coarse grains, pulses and groundnuts improved.

However, some African countries are still suffering from food shortages, due in part to poor 1977 crops, and locusts still pose a considerable threat in parts of Africa as well as Asia, FAO noted. In addition, even with this year's gains, African food production has increased only 1.4 percent a year since 1970.

World food production in 1978 rose an estimated 3 to 3.5 percent, but despite these gains, many food problems remain. Food gains in the developing countries during this decade have been disappointing. FAO noted. With only two years of the 1970's remaining, it is unlikely that the average yearly growth in food production in developing countries can be raised much above the 3 percent average of the 1960's, and it will certainly fall far short of the basic target of 4 percent set by the United Nations.

FAO Director-General Edourad Saouma told the opening session that despite gains in world agricultural production, slow progress is being made on many food problems. If present adverse trends continue, he said, developing countries will need to import 90 million tons of cereals by 1985, instead of the current 66 million tons.

Speaking of the world food situation, Mr. Saouma said: "The problem is not merely one of increasing food production, but equally important, of bringing the under-privileged small farmers and landless laborers into the main stream of development." This problem, he said, will be at the heart of the World Conference on Agrarian (land) Reform and Rural Development to be held in Rome next July.

After referring to the action that needed to be taken by both developing and developed countries, the Director-General welcomed the recent establishment by President Carter of a Commission on World Hunger.

FAO reported that the developing countries' share of trade in agricultural, fishery and forest products increased in 1977 for the second year in a row. However, the long term trend in their share of world trade has been downward and their terms of trade (prices received for agricultural exports compared to prices paid for manufactured) worsened again in early 1978.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is an agency of the United Nations.

SUPPORT THE BLACK COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Consumer Survival Kit

In our inflation-ridden economy, American consumers need all the help they can get. 'Consumer Survival Kit,' the light-hearted but serious-minded guide to the marketplace, begins its fifth season on public television with 26 new half-hour programs on Thursday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. on KLVX, Channel 10.

Hosted by Lary Lewman, 'Consumer Survival Kit' each week brings you at least three reports on such commonplace consumer decisions as getting the most for your money at fast food restaurants and borrowing. These and other topics --including medical malpractice, estate planning, prescription drugs, home buying, auto accessories and weight control--are examined in the new season.

Each program has investigative reports, interviews with guest experts and frequent appearances by celebrities such as Alan Alda, Benny Goodman and Forrest Tucker. The "Survivor of the Week" segment profiles an individual's victory over consumer fraud and exploitation.

Joining host Lewman this season is reporter Thea Feikin and investigative reporters Patrick McGrath and Fran Dorn.

A weekly, 26-page 'Survival Kit' is available to viewers. More than one million copies of "Kits" have been distributed.

Government Corruption a Threat To National Security

Members of the American Citizens for Honesty in Government, sponsored by the Church of Scientology, were in town today declaring that government corruption is a threat to national security and calling for citizen participation in cleaning up the corruption.

As part of the group's action, the Church's national newspaper, Freedom, was distributed which contains an exclusive interview with a 30 year FBI agent.

The group's spokesman, Jack E. Gay, cited the FBI article as "a prime example how corruption can be a threat to national security. Many Americans depend on the FBI for America's national security - yet the FBI is rife with unexposed corruption. Can agents involved themselves in illegal acts by capable of responsible law enforcement? The rising crime statistics give us the best answer to that question," Gay stated.

The recently retired FBI agent featured in the Freedom interview charged that FBI agents have been involved in fabricating Government Corruption.

FBI informants and pocketing money allocated to the nonexistent sources of information.

The agent, who wishes to remain anonymous, explained in the interview that he and others were pressured by a quote system set by supervisors and Special Agents in Charge (SAC), into 'schemes' to devise informants. "Some would go to the extent of picking a name out of a phone book and write them up as an informant."

The ACHG members are promoting a \$10,000 reward, offered by the ACHG, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of dishonest government officials.

The spokesman further stated, "The purpose of ACHG is to bring about a political reform, defense of individual liberty and scuring individual privacy with freedom from corrupt and dishonest officials. We are working towards this goal in part through the rewards campaigns our group is offering."

"The responses from citizens thus far has been gratifying" continued Mr. Gay. "Housewife, homeowner, professional, and student alike share a concern for the direction our government is taking. All are concerned about national security--and many citizens do not feel at all secure with their government at this time, due to the ever-increasing government corruption being exposed. ACHG is one group doing something about cleaning up corrupt government," he concluded.

members of the ACHG are conducting tours of over 100 cities around the country this week by over 28 chapters.

WORDS OF LIFE

Biblical Inspiration

For The Week

"There is... one God and Father of us all."
—Ephesians 4:45

1. *God, the cosmic presence, pervades the universe.* When God came upon and contemplated the void (or the nothingness) of which we are told in the beginning of Genesis, his life's imprint, his life's impact and his life's breath it was which gave form and substance to our life and to our world. God's world reflects... and is... his life.

2. *God is one.* This is the ancient Hebrew lesson learned in Egyptian captivity from the teachings of Central Africa. There is one life-spirit, so the ancient Africans taught; there is one "life-force."

While the Hebrews are credited with popularizing the "one God" idea in their Mediterranean world, they learned this great lesson from our African past.

3. *God is the Father of us all.* We are "one family." A family is not "all alike." It is comprised of uniquely different children, with uniquely different outlooks and assets. Yet it remains "one family." So it is with the "family of man."

While we must take pride in our different "heritages," let us keep uppermost in our minds that we are one family with "one God and Father of us all."

Carter Administration Budget Proposals

Following a recent meeting at the White House, I cannot help but include that President Carter is engaged in a systemic retreat from his commitment to sustain the fight against unemployment and provide better services for the poor of this country. His Administration seems determined to make domestic social programs absorb almost the full weight of reductions in the Federal budget deficit and to make the poor pay for inflation.

Inflation and unemployment must be twin priorities. We laud the elimination of waste caused by mismanagement, but not the elimination of worthy programs themselves. We do not believe that reduced inflation will benefit the nation if the means used involve increased unemployment.

Putting people to work is one way of fighting inflation. Increases in unemployment cost the Federal treasury billions in services, welfare cost and tax revenues.

Yet, while the Administration can justify significant tax reductions for the affluent and for corporations, it proposes budget cuts that reduce CETA jobs, housing subsidies, healthy programs, job-training, public works programs and other efforts to help "the least of these" in our society.

Unemployment among blacks is already at depression level--double that of white workers. More than 55% of black youth are jobless. The typical black family income is below the level of minimum decent living standards. Yet, the Administration is willing to accept its own estimate that we can expect the unemployment rate among blacks to continue at 12-15% for at least the next two years and for Black youths, to be 35-40%.

These figures render null and void the noble intent of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act. It makes a cruel hoax of raised expectations that will soon be crushed under the Administration's austerity measures.

Here, at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where our founding president Dr. King was slain while working on behalf of the poor, we urge the Administration to honor the campaign promises on which it rode into office---limiting military spending and intensifying economic opportunities for the disadvantaged. We urge the party of Roosevelt, Johnson and Kennedy to abandon its present course of sacrificing its traditional constituents on the altar of inflation.

PIONEERS IN NEVADA

Pioneers in Nevada certainly lived by Owen Meredith's words, printed on the title page of the Nevada Cookbook:

"We may live without poetry, music and art
We may live without conscience, live without heart,
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

December 16-23, Valley Bank and the Clark County Library District offer library patrons not only the best from Nevada's early cooks, but something of our heritage as well. Copies of "The Nevada Cookbook" will be available at each of the Clark County Libraries and patrons interested in receiving a reproduction of the original 1887 "Cookbook of the Woman's Art and Industrial Association" should inquire at the circulation desk at any of the five metropolitan branches or seven out-lying branches. Cookbooks will be presented to patrons as long as the supply lasts at the Las Vegas, Sunrise, West Las Vegas, Decatur and Flamingo Libraries as well as at the libraries in Goodsprings, Indian Springs, Blue Diamond, Moapa Valley, Virgin Valley, Bunkerville and Searchlight.

Along with traditional recipes for Bean Soup, Griddle Cakes and Gingerbread are a variety of remedies and cures for such ailments as corns, chilblains and rough hands.

Valley Bank has also placed copies of the cookbook in library collections throughout the state for continued public use.