

REMARKS - APRIL 18, 1966 - NEWSPAPER  
FARM EDITORS

I am very happy to be here to address this group of distinguished newspapermen on the proposal, which I have been working on for some time, known for lack of a better description, as the "Bread and Butter Corps". Believe me, I am very happy to be here with you this morning, and in conveying your kind invitation to me, Bernie asked me to emphasize what is new about the "Bread and Butter Corps".

Well, in the first place, "new" has been defined as something "old" that everybody has forgotten about; and in farm legislation it often is quite difficult to find proposals that are absolutely unique and original.

Let me tell you first then what is old about the "Bread and Butter Corps". First of all, the concept of technical assistance is certainly one which has been around for a long time within the framework of our agricultural and foreign assistance policies. The technical assistance program of Point 4 during President Truman's Administration, the International Voluntary Service of the Eisenhower Administration, and the Peace Corps of President Kennedy's Administration have all incorporated to some extent this concept. In addition, the various foreign assistance programs through the years up to and including the present AID technical assistance activities have been directed toward the expansion of American "know how" and "show how" throughout the world.

What then is new about the "Bread and Butter Corps"? Actually, I believe there are two basic innovations which we have been trying to implement in this legislation. The first is better coordination. The second is the structuring of this program through land grant colleges and other universities.

The coordination effort proposed by this legislation is directed



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first at the U. S. Department of Agriculture itself. The "Bread and Butter Corps" technical assistance activity would be located in and under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. The Department would have the responsibility of coordinating the activities of the federal extension service which includes the 4-H Club program, the Federal-State Cooperative Research Service, and the Foreign Agricultural Service, together with other useful and appropriate agencies. Second, the legislation contemplates the coordination of this type of technical assistance within the framework of the U. S. Government and international bodies to which the U. S. holds membership. The Secretary of Agriculture would be directed to consult and cooperate with the Director of the Peace Corps, the Administrator of AID, the Secretary of State, and the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. In establishing this line of coordination, we contemplate that any personnel who are trained and prepared for overseas service would be made available to agencies other than the USDA if the President thought their services would be more valuable with some other agency. Also, the legislation is directed toward preserving the traditional responsibility and authority for the conduct of the foreign affairs of this country to continue to be lodged in the hands of the Secretary of State.

The third level of coordination would be between the U. S. Government and private associations and foundations, farm organizations, and charitable entities. Groups like the Future Farmers of America, the CARE, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, the Grange, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation -- to name a few -- can and should also play a part in the effort to increase agricultural production in <sup>under</sup> undeveloped countries.

Thus, the first point is coordination. Coordination, I have found, does not exist at the present time. Coordination within the Department of

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Agriculture, within our government, with our government and international bodies, and coordination with foundations, farm organizations, and private organizations will, I hope, more efficiently and effectively channel the export of our most valuable commodity -- American agricultural genius.

The second part of this proposal which ~~is~~ is new is the structuring of the major responsibility through the land grant colleges and other institutions of higher learning. On a contract or grant basis, these colleges would have three responsibilities. The first would be to train or retrain people who are either skilled in agricultural science and have a formal education in agriculture or home economics or to prepare practical farmers, farm wives or others who have a workable knowledge of farming and home economics for service overseas.

This effort as I contemplate it, would be conducted by the colleges themselves and would not require the federal government to establish expensive new facilities or ~~hire~~ hire faculties or instructors to perform these educational services.

The second function would be to establish agricultural institutes -- more like short courses in practical agriculture ---- both here in the United States and overseas. These specialized agricultural institutes would be directed towards the training of persons who serve as volunteers in this program and foreign nationals. To the maximum extent possible, foreign currencies generated by the sale of farm commodities would be earmarked for the payment of expenses incident to the conduct of these activities.

The third function would be to establish selective research and demonstration centers in conjunction with the agricultural institutes. During the hearings on the Administration's proposal, one of the points made by several of the expert witnesses the Committee heard was that there now exists



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a real lack of first-class localized research facilities in tropical areas. Many times the technology of the North Temperate Zone of the globe is not readily and feasibly transferred to a tropical area. Again, using local currencies as much as possible, it seems feasible to concentrate on localized conditions and then demonstrate to the agricultural industry in the recipient country the value of this new technology.

Thus, the new or different approach which this legislation holds is to establish training centers, agricultural institutes, and research and demonstration projects directly under the control of land grant colleges and universities, but under the general supervision of the USDA.

Some have asked, of course, why do we need a better coordinated and accelerated effort in this field.

One need only look at the arithmetic to get part of the answer. In 15 years, by 1980, present population trends indicate an increase in world population of 1 billion people. By the beginning of the 21st Century, only 34 years from now, world population is expected to double. In Latin America, Asia, and Africa, the growth rate is much more rapid, and in a number of countries in these areas, their populations will double within 20 years.

The cold, brutal, and realistic fact is that the United States and other developed countries will not be able to feed and clothe the unborn millions who are destined to populate the earth in the next few decades. Therefore, the clear implication exists that we must do everything within our power to assist these people to help themselves meet their own basic needs if world peace and stability is to be maintained.

Another reason ~~I feel~~ the technical assistance "know how" and "show how", self-help effort should be expanded is that when one looks to what currently



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is being done in this area, it shapes up as being really quite modest. For example, the FAO of the United Nations carries on a technical assistance program throughout the world. As you know, there are some 112 nations that belong to FAO, but do you have any idea how many people, how many actual individuals are in the field working in these projects? The fact is there are about 250. In other words, about two people per country, or put another way ---- the 250 people that FAO has in the field could easily get lost getting off the boat in Calcutta, India. When it comes to the AID technical assistance activities, testimony in our Committee indicated that there are in the aggregate about 1 thousand such persons. Looking again at the massive scope of the <sup>problem</sup>~~past~~ and the size in populations of the nations which need this assistance, the present thousand people represent virtually a drop in the bucket in this effort. Finally, the Peace Corps, which carries a heavy emphasis on young people who are idealistically motivated, does not possess the agricultural expertise and knowledge that is of practical and substantive assistance in getting results.

In summary, the "Bread and Butter Corps" <sup>concept</sup> is, of ~~course~~, something old, but ~~it is~~ also something new. It takes the concept of technical assistance, coordinates it within the USDA, within the U. S. Government, and with private foundations, voluntary organizations and farm groups. It is structured through the land grant and other colleges to provide training programs, the establishment of agricultural institutes and research and demonstration projects designed to meet man's most basic need -- the need for food ----- a need which if unsatisfied, <sup>will</sup> lead ~~only~~ to the destruction of world peace.