

WORLD HUNGER NOT DUE TO FOOD SHORTAGE

By MARY BOYD

Joseph D. Collins, a young American who spent years working in and researching the Third World, told a 10 Days for World Development workshop numbering ninety people that if there is hunger in the world it's not because of a scarcity of food. "If people are not feeding themselves it's because obstacles are in their way," he said. He described the main obstacle as an export orientated agricultural system dominated by large land holders and agribusiness. He noted that the problem lies not only in the number of acres of land going into boosting exports. "All the agricultural research, all the Extension services, building of dams, roads, everything is focused on that and there is nothing for folks who would be growing basic food crops."

Other problems connected with export of food from the Third World are the trends away from communal-use of land in countries like Africa, to privatized use by the powerful, and the need to import fertilizer, processing machinery, wrapping cellophane type of machinery, everything which caters to the demands of that market. All of this costs more money which ensures continued dependency.

Mr. Collins stated that countries like Canada are also characterized by increasing concentrated control over agricultural resources. He described the source of control as "large processing food companies, vertically integrated, which are beginning to look at all the world as their potential farm. Companies like Del Monte, based in San Francisco, come into Canada buying up local canneries, in order to really put them out of business, to destroy competition and then instead of buying the vegetables and fruits to can from the local farmers as those canneries had almost exclusively done, Del Monte is operating with the idea that there's a global farm out there and you bring produce in from where you are able to exploit, to get the cheapest possible labour, where there are no labour unions or where the government elite is willing to sell the labour of its people at wages less than they could possibly support themselves on."

"This global farm," he said, "is being linked up to a global supermarket. The extension of the large agribusiness or food processing firm into the world, looking for the global farm, goes totally with this fact that in so many underdeveloped countries the resources that can grow food are being controlled by fewer and fewer people who as we were pointing out, find that their interest is to orientate their production toward the high paying market."

DISPARITY
In this global supermarket, only ten percent of the population of a country like India can spend the same type of money as the average Canadian.

Therefore, most of the food will go to the richer countries.

Mr. Collins said "The increasingly undemocratic control of food resources in a country like Canada links up beautifully with the increasingly undemocratic control of resources in so many countries of the world. It links up beautifully for the people who become the food monopolizers." He warned that the social impact of this even in our own country is "lower income for farmers, fewer farms, more unemployment, less processing industry employment. In the moral sense, the important thing is that we are becoming increasingly dependent on the vagueness of undemocratic societies keeping undemocratic control over our food and food resources in other countries."

Hunger is not then, the result of scarcity. It is related to the control over food growing resources. What can we do? Mr. Collins



JOE COLLINS

stated that there is a demanding agenda ahead.

"We must see that all common interest is in a more broad based, more democratic control of food resource in our country and that our government, our tax money, our name is not being used, our buying power is not being used, to create more undemocratic control of food resources in other countries."



"Taiwan bids thirty cents an hour... Do I hear twenty-five from Hong Kong?"

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Dalhousie University,
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Where is it?

Where is the Third World? In Senegal, Bangladesh, Cape Breton or the North-West Territories?

OXFAM-CANADA is a private, non-profit organization that asks this sort of question often.

If funds development projects both in Canada and in its main areas of concentration — Southern Africa, the Caribbean, the Latin American Andean region, the area of East India and Bangladesh, and Native Peoples (including Canada). The aim of these projects is to combat underdevelopment by creating or assisting local self-help projects.

Canadians who watch TV or read newspapers know what the results of underdevelopment look like — poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, unhealthy and unsafe housing, complete vulnerability in times of natural disaster. But few people have been encouraged to determine what the causes of these problems are.

The basic causes of underdevelopment are complex, but one thing is certain: they have a lot to do with the way the richer countries like Canada control the world's trade and resources.

Oxfam-Canada — helping people help themselves. It's not a slogan.

Anyone interested in making a donation or working with the local committee can contact Mike Menard or Eleanor MacLean at: Oxfam-Canada, 1539 Birmingham Street, Halifax or phone 422-8338.

Tax man to treat colony as corporation

By JOHN SCHMIDT
Calgary Correspondent

CALGARY: The federal income tax department has unloosed a new tactic at Canada's Hutterites after losing a long-drawn-out court battle against an orthodox sect.

The tax men now plan to make a levy on the earnings of all colonies as corporations starting with the current taxation year.

This will mean colony earnings will be taxed the same as large corporations or trusts, which is at the rate of 46 per cent of their earnings.

Farmers taxed as individuals pay on a graduated scale from zero to about 30 per cent based on earnings. In the cases where farms have been incorporated they can qualify for lower tax under small-business regulations as they pass the earnings on to the owners for taxation purposes.

The Hutterites will not be able to qualify as a small business as they do not pass their earnings to individuals. The individuals have taken vows of poverty and all earnings they contributed go to the common treasury under the Biblical community of the goods.

The Hutterite leaders have not determined whether they can live with the new taxation base. It could send them either back to the courts or the poorhouse.

As primary producers they cannot pass on their costs as do secondary processing businesses which pay corporate taxes.

As one Hutterite leader said: "The wider society has tried with every means at their disposal to dislodge us and our way of life. It may be the income tax department that will finally do the trick."

The Supreme Court of Canada made a ruling last year to the effect that 400 individuals in the Dariusleut sect of the Hutterites were not taxable because they had taken vows of poverty.

TAX MEN TURNAROUND
The tax men have now turned around and are reassessing the colonies as corporations. Their reasoning is if the courts won't allow them to tax the Dariusleut group as individuals, they will tax the colonies themselves.

The case stems from a nearly forgotten fact about the Canada Income Tax Act. The act was passed in 1917 as a temporary measure to raise money to finance the First World War.

As one of a number of groups of pacifists invited into Canada by the government to settle the country, the Hutterites refused to pay any form of tax to finance wars. They didn't pay any income tax until 1960 as they sat in an unchallenged state as a religious institution. At that time the income tax assessors challenged them.

There are three sects of Hutterites, viz., the Dariusleut, Lehrleut and Schmiedenleut.

The former are orthodox brethren

AGREED TO PAY

The three made an agreement with Ottawa in that year to pay income tax on an individual basis, it being assumed that the profits of the colonies were to be divided among the members for the tax calculation and each would have a personal exemption.

There were certain advantages to this system as all expenses, including depreciation, were allowed into the calculation.

However, in 1966 the Dariusleut objected to having to pay Canada Pension Plan contributions as no individual earned any money and they said they didn't need the pension as the colony looks after its own from the cradle to the grave.

The Dariusleut operate on a cash basis, without even allowing for depreciation on their farms. Thus they are being hard hit by runaway inflation. They hired an Edmonton lawyer, John Matheson, to take their case to court. Taxes were withheld from 1966 to 1976 during the litigation.

When Matheson won the case last year the Dariusleut didn't have to pay any taxes and the income tax people were ordered to refund \$3 million paid between 1960 and 1966.

The payments were delayed while the revenue department niggled over whether to make out the refund cheques plus interest to individuals or the colonies.

Having lost the court case to the one sect, the Ottawa taxation assessors say the taxation agreement with all the sects is null and void.