

Frolik: Vietnam has great farming potential

by Peter Anderson

Women's lib may be coming into its own in the U.S., but in Vietnam women have played an integral part in the work force for some time, according to E.F. Frolik, dean of UNL's College of Agriculture. Much of this has been due to the shortage of manpower because of the war and to the low level of mechanization in agriculture, he said.

Frolik and G.B. Alcorn, director of the Agriculture Extension Service at the University of California at Berkeley, were in Vietnam for two months working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

Frolik said that Vietnam has great possibilities for agricultural production but work is needed to increase production and efficiency.

The war, he said, has caused salt intrusion in the southern delta where dams and dikes have been broken; the abandonment of farm land and subsequent overgrowth, and defoliation along the northern seacoast where the soil is eroding.

Within 10 years Vietnam's cultural production will double, he said. Getting land back into use and improving transportation to rural areas are important in achieving this, he said.

The introduction of sugar cane and the expansion of rice and rubber production also will improve the economic future, Frolik said.

The people have been anxious to start sugar cane production for a long time, but haven't, he said, because "it is an ideal place for Viet Cong to hide."

Higher wages have helped support the rural areas during the war, he continued. The wages are higher than in Saigon because of the great number of people who moved into the cities for security, he said.

Frolik visited Vietnam in 1970. He said that in 1970 the economy seemed stronger and Saigon was more peaceful. In 1973 the fighting was close to Saigon and troops patrolled most of the city, he said. At the time of the ceasefire, fighting was very evident with gunfire heard and flares seen at night.

"You got a very definite feeling that you were in a country at war," Frolik said.

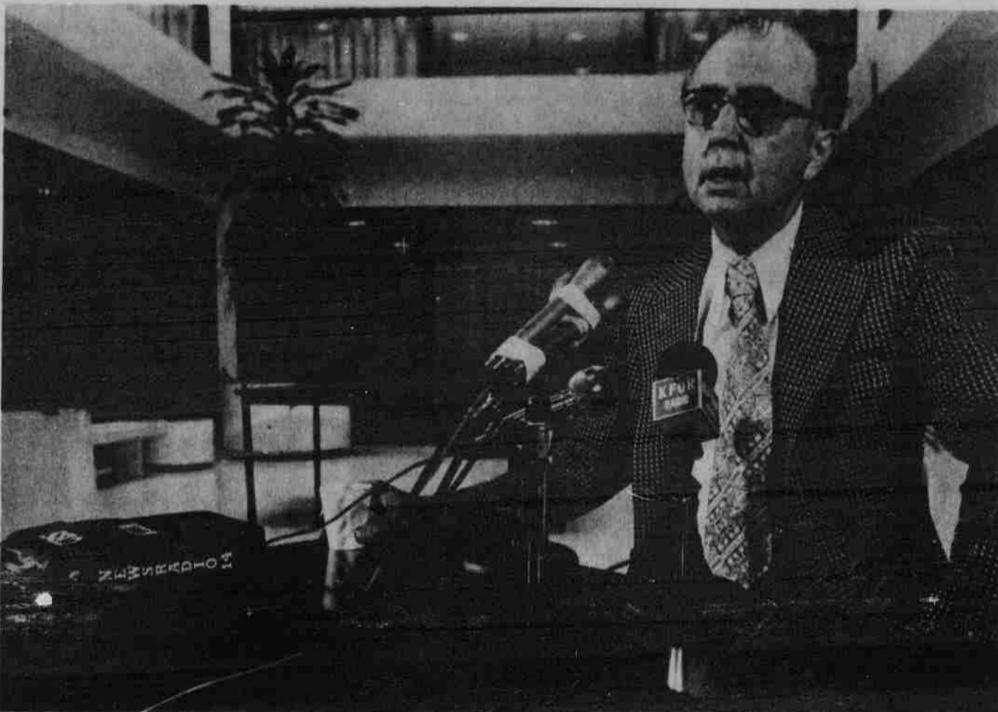
He said the plans for his trip were made in August and that he had not been in Indochina to make recommendations for redevelopment of North Vietnam.

Past aid to South Vietnam has done a lot of good, Frolik said, "but you have to take it in the context of a country at war."

As an example of U.S. assistance, Frolik mentioned the MeKong Delta area where there is little water control. The rice fields are usually left fallow during the dry season. He said that sorghum has been planted successfully after the rice harvest and that it has proved to be a suitable crop for the dry season.

Aid to South Vietnam will come not only from the U.S., Frolik said. Japan and South Vietnam would be good trade partners, he explained. South Vietnam can produce many agricultural goods that Japan needs, and Japan, in turn, can offer small machinery and support industry.

There is going to be a place for someone in aiding South Vietnam, Frolik said. "They could do it themselves but it would take a lot longer."



Dean of Agriculture E.F. Frolik . . . back from Vietnam.

Feminists author stage play

by Nancy Stohs

Give a woman activist enough static about community bathrooms, enough chauvinistic jokes about co-ed army barracks and woman presidents and she's bound to fight back.

Some join the legal front in Washington, D.C., lobbying for equal rights. A group of local UNL women have created their own kind of ammunition, a feminist theater.

"The idea is that more people will listen through entertainment," Sue Brown of the University Women's Action Group (UWAG) said. "We (UWAG) have done a lot of speaking and have gotten good reactions, but we felt we could do more."

Brown, members of UWAG, the National Organization of Women (NOW) and volunteers from the Women's Resource Center last December formed the UNL feminist theater.

"The (regular) theater on campus has been very bad toward women," Brown said. She said many UNL theater productions don't offer major women's parts.

In looking for appropriate plays, Brown said they found little in print that portrayed women in nondiscriminate roles.

The first production is an original. Brown and UWAG member Chris Stout contributed the plot and six other women wrote the dialogue.

It is a short melodrama called "A Funny Thing Happened in the Community Bathroom Last Night" or "Peter's Problem Pregnancy."

A deliberate reversal of the sex roles, it is the story of Peter Prude, who is raped by a little old lady in a community bathroom and becomes pregnant.

Constantly a victim of circumstances, Peter faces problems of discrimination in getting an abortion ("After

all, it's the man's responsibility"), in getting accident insurance. ("I'm sorry . . . pregnancy is not an illness, but a natural phenomenon"), in filing suit against the repist and finally, in getting Aid to Dependent Children (ADC).

According to Brown, the play is a satire of the general assumption that "women naturally love to get raped, love to stay home with children . . . and can always obtain ADC."

But its main purpose is laughter, the co-authors said. They said it will probably appeal most to college and high school students.

"Feminists are often accused of not having a sense of humor," co-author Linda Goldberg said.

According to the director, Jan Healey, "There's no reason why more serious things couldn't be done later on, but we wanted to start out with something light-hearted."

Tryouts for "Peter's Problem Pregnancy" were this week. Parts will be announced Sunday.

The play will be presented in three weeks Brown said. The group will present it at the Nebraska Union, dormitories, Greek houses or other organizations that request it.

Feminist theaters exist in every major city throughout the country, she said, but this is the first she knows of in this area.

The objective of the theater at UNL is simply to change attitudes—the "really ridiculous" sexist attitudes of male students and teachers, she said.

"They have to start recognizing women are human beings," she said. "Then attitudes and laws will change together."



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