

Speaker says land-grant colleges must find food answer

By Kevin Field

The work and research of America's land grant universities are the key to stabilizing if not solving the world's hunger problem, said the chancellor of the largest university system in the United States.

Clifton Wharton, of the State University of New York, spoke last Friday to about 150 people on East Campus on "The Land-Grant University-Engine of Agricultural Development."

With the passage of the Land-Grant act of 1862, Wharton said, the United States has become the greatest agricultural power in the world. In 1870, each farmer fed himself and five other people. Today, the average farmer will produce enough to feed himself and fifty others, he added.

However, much of the world faces the threats of severe inadequacy of food, he

said. The biggest problem is keeping up with the vastly increasing population, he said. In 21 years, the world's population will reach eight billion if it continues at its current rate.

"Every two weeks Brazil adds an Omaha," he added.

Steady increase

On the average, populations are increasing at about 2 to 3 percent per year. Therefore output must also increase at that rate just to keep up. He described it as "taking all the running you can do to stay in one place."

It is through the work of the land-grant universities that the increases have been met, though many taxpayers are unaware of the contributions of land-grant institutions over the years in the war on hunger, Wharton said.

Wharton said he believes our efforts must change from the short-term programs

to the long-term.

"Seeing starving children in a foreign land while we eat a fat meal stabs our conscience; but as soon as there is a bumper year in the third world, we put our worries on the shelf."

Two constraints must be met, he said, for any programs to work.

First, technological innovations are needed to convert the potential of third world nations into reality and second, improved distribution, to insure the aid reaches the farmers, Wharton said.

Programs have helped

Wharton added that the programs should not solely work on a particular problem, but to aid the host country so it may be able to solve its own future problems.

Wharton described programs of collaborative research designed to pool the expertise of top scholars from various institutions. UNL is currently managing one such program in conjunction with seven other universities.

Wharton believes the programs have been beneficial. "The U.S. development assistance programs have made a difference. Though we have not won, we have kept up."

"Each day, our planet that once seemed so vast, becomes a global village. The programs help demonstrate to the entire world that freedom from hunger is more important than the sale of arms," he said.

Wharton added that most programs result from a request for aid from a country, not U.S. intervention in foreign affairs.

Students to compete in Detroit

Journalism students from UNL will vie with those from five other schools May 15 for \$13,000 in scholastic awards in the finals of the 1979 General Motors Intercollegiate Business Understanding Program.

The competition, started three years ago to encourage students thought about business in America, began early this year with

20 leading schools of journalism invited to develop oral and written presentations discussing the roles of business and the news media.

Student teams from the six top schools will present their findings again before the GM management May 15 in Detroit. First prize is a \$5,000 scholarship awarded to the school.

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