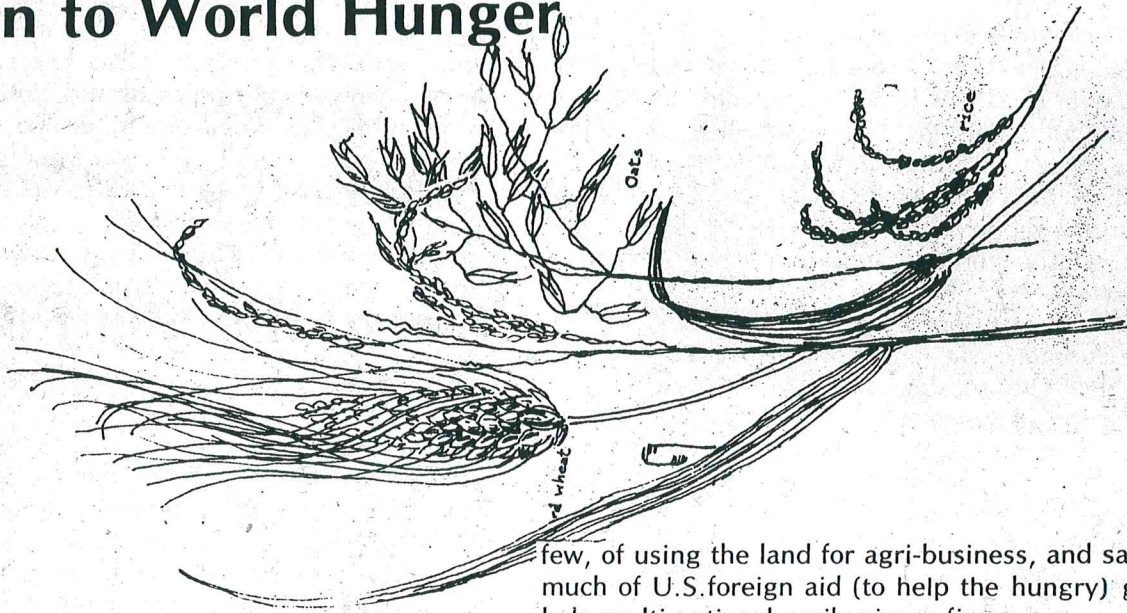


# Solution to World Hunger



—M. JENSEN

Who hasn't read a book or pamphlet, or seen a film or TV documentary on world hunger in the past year? Since those two recent popular books, **Diet for a Small Planet** by Frances Lappe', and **Recipes for a Small Planet**, by Ewald, statistics and pictures have flooded the news with knowledge, guilt and fear of world starvation.

Always there is talk of the few food-exporting countries (Canada, U.S., New Zealand and Australia); the rest seem to be "the developing nations" where hunger stalks. A film from the Franciscan Communications Center, 1229 So. Santee, Los Angeles, 90015 tries to dispel Ten Food Myths, (chiefly that there are too many people in the world, and that people don't want to help themselves.) The picture includes Chinese and African children, but no clear reference to the actual countries or provinces. Nor were there definite indications of what to do, or solutions of real import. The general purpose seemed to be to make viewers conscious of their own wasteful food habits.

A 50 page pamphlet, **World Hunger**, by Frances Lappe' (a condensation of her 1977 book, **Food First**) cogently attacks the ten myths. She says the myths include the notion that there are too many people for the land to support, that technology cannot keep up with burgeoning populations, and warning of food wars in the future. **Food First** challenges those myths.

Through her new organization, Institute for Food and Development Policy, 2588 Mission St., San Francisco, 94110, Frances Lappe' has assembled a staggering amount of material which contradicts current assumptions about the world food situation. What they have discovered is that **every country [even Bangladesh] has the capacity to feed itself**. Rather than with numbers of people and acres of land, the problem rests with who controls the land and for what the land is used.

She openly challenges the control of the land by a 13

few, of using the land for agri-business, and says that much of U.S. foreign aid (to help the hungry) goes to help multi-national agribusiness firms.

She says our task is clear and suggests five steps we should take:

- a. Stop any economic aid (government or voluntary) that reinforces the use of land for export crops or that helps establish a new privileged class of farm entrepreneurs.

- b. Stop U.S. military assistance to under-developed countries; it is used to oppose changes necessary to food self-reliance.

- c. Promote foreign assistance only to countries where steps are being made to democratize control over agricultural resources.

- d. Work to build a democratically controlled and food self-reliant economy in America. Urge land re-distribution at home.

- e. Show the connections between the way the U.S. government and agri-business oligopolies work against the hungry abroad.

## BASIC AND UNDERLYING REFORM?

Such facts are good as far as they go. But do they show actual steps to take to eliminate exploitive control of land and government interference in food distribution? Why not turn to the Georgists? Let George do it.

The Georgists have a basic answer. For each community to take all taxes off of improvements and to shift them to land values, would reduce and eliminate the cost of land. It would destroy the monopoly of land, and give people access to land. Both land and its natural resources would be available to people who needed it; then people could feed themselves or provide employment for those needing to be employed.

The Henry George School of San Francisco is at 833 Market St., but a short distance from Frances Lappe's Institute. Their cooperation could be strategic for the solution of world hunger.