

Editorial

Feeding The World's Hungry- The Wrong Way

Noble-minded Americans are making Symbolic gestures to the mass of the world hungry by denying themselves full days meals and collecting money to feed the world's many hungry people. Some are planning to eat just one meal a day as a demonstration of concern over the food situation the world over, specially in the less developed nations in the world. Students, laymen and many civic organizations are collecting money to send overseas.

Helping less fortunate people is not new to the American people. Surplus grains have been shipped abroad in plane loads to alleviate hunger situation in many lands.

After the second World War, American originated Marshal Plan resurated Western Europe from the slumpers of war divestitation.

Whenever war, flood or the elements disrupted a people, American aid always helped to restore normal life to the afflicted nations.

But America cannot hope to be helping the world indefinitely. The magnitude of the operations, with every passing day, becomes greater than can be handled by an outsider. That is why an appraisal of the world food situation and how to improve it is in order now.

Aids which come in a crisis situation often postpones the real crisis, and the donors, on the long run gets short changed since the receiver often forgets what have already been given when new crises rear their heads.

The answer to the food situation the world over, specially in the less developed nations probably lies not in massive food shipment but in machanazines that will produce food in those poor nations.

Such long term results can be achieved by proper irrigation of barren lands, as Israel has done, by animal husbandary, by modern technique of farming, by reducing the number of people who migrate to the big cities from various villages and by the governments of these poor nations giving agriculture the pride of occupation which so called modernization seem to have denied it in recent years in many developing nations, and above all, by enlightened education which addresses itself to the needs of the people.

The wrong way to feed the world hungry is to provide the hungry all the food that he needs now and then, for the hungry to start again from square one as soon as the food runs out.

The right way to feed the world hungry is to help him provide his own food and in that way make him less dependent on outside help.

Any other way tantamounts to putting him on welfare and making him think and probably believe, that the world owes him a living.

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To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Perhaps the most insistent of all the demands for government subsidies comes from the arts community. From theatre groups to symphony orchestras, the well-documented financial pinch causes performers and administrators to look for outside funds to keep culture alive.

Few people would argue against more public support for cultural institutions, but many would suggest that such institutions, devoted as they are to humane instincts, have a special responsibility to overcome racial discrimination in their ranks.

Among the most blatant offenders in this area are America's symphony orchestras. A recent study by the National Urban League and the Symphony of the New World, an integrated orchestra, reveals a pattern of persistent exclusion of black musicians.

The poll of 54 orchestras, including all of the major ones, revealed only 67 minority musicians out of a total of almost 4,700. Nationwide, minorities probably account for less than one-half of one percent of all musicians employed by the country's 110 major and Metropolitan orchestras.

This is a disgraceful record, especially when one considers that many of these minority

performers were hired relatively recently.

And the question of minority hiring also goes beyond matters of equity -- it is an economic issue as well.

The top 28 major symphony orchestras spend over \$75 million each year, much of it for salaries. If only ten percent or orchestral salaries went to minorities -- a smaller percentage than the proportion of blacks in populations of the cities served by those orchestras -- it would mean almost \$5 million dollars in salaries to the minority community.

These major orchestras totalled about \$8 million in government support and played before nearly 11 million people. Clearly they qualify as public institutions, that ought to be serving all of the people, not only the majority community.

Discriminatory patterns in this field have been under attack for years, but change has been slow or nonexistent. One major orchestra that faced anti-discrimination suits a few years ago still has only one black member.

The recent rise to prominence of a number of fine black conductors helps illustrate how, even in the face of rigid discrimination, black musicians prepared themselves for the most difficult and demanding of positions.

There are black associate conductors of some major orchestras and Henry Lewis is music director of the New Jersey Symphony and a star at the Metropolitan Opera.

Blacks are not newcomers to the classical music scene. In the mid-Nineteenth Century blacks were regularly seen as performers and as soloists, and after Jim Crow took over, blacks were often prominent in European musical circles.

The Symphony of the New World is an example of an integrated symphony orchestra, with almost half of its members drawn from minorities and performing under the leadership of a talented black conductor Everett Lee. Incidentally, Lee, like some other black conductors, has led concerts in Russia, while American orchestras were importing Europeans to conduct them.

Discrimination in the concert hall is no longer conscious. Most orchestra managers sincerely believe they are "color blind," but they have yet to understand the importance of overcoming the effects of blatant discrimination of the past.

Orchestras, no less than steel companies and banks, have to inaugurate affirmative action programs that will make their organizations more representative of the communities they serve.