



PERSPECTIVE...

The Farmer and the Future

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THERE IS REAL OPPORTUNITY in the low farm income areas of the country to bring about more effective use of both human and land resources. The broad recommendations which have been made in this field include the tools of research, extension, technical aid, credit, vocational training for farm and off-farm jobs, and information to bring jobs and workers together. This is essentially a program to help people to help themselves to broader and wider opportunity. . . .

Scientists in the Federal-State network are under constant pressure to find better ways of coping with the hazards that threaten our farms today. . . . of helping farmers use the flood of materials and techniques coming out of industrial research. . . . and assisting them to make adjustments needed to keep pace with technology. The big share of the work—in public service—is devoted to applied research.

But we're well aware that the scientific study that holds greatest promise in agriculture as in industry has a much broader scope. This is the long-range fundamental research that may have no immediate destination. These studies blaze the trail for further exploration. They lead us to new riches in fruitful knowledge.

The times demand continuing increases in funds for research. And a sound program of basic research is vital if agriculture is to keep step with industry. This has been recognized. More than \$24 million have been added to the Federal agricultural research appropriations this year and last.

Approximately half of the increase has been earmarked for Federal grants to States to help them conduct research on problems of special interest in their localities.

And a larger share of funds is going into fundamental research. We're going to have to make sure applied research doesn't run out of fuel supplied by the new knowledge and new techniques which it is the responsibility of fundamental research to provide. . . .

As we penetrate further the new frontier of scientific knowledge, it is apparent that more and more people trained in the scientific disciplines will be required to conduct the research necessary to the penetration of this frontier. Public and private research alike needs to be alert to its supply of personnel.

There appears to be substantial evidence that we are running into a shortage of trained scientific personnel in both teaching and research. This is an area that needs the attention of all of us, and then, too, we must recognize that a scientific education by itself is not enough. The scientist today should be able to relate his activities to the world in which he lives—to the economic, social, and political forces at play. For increasingly, none of us live isolated from our fellowmen. . . .

Agricultural research can't be separated from education for its application. As science moves forward, such education must keep pace. In Government, the Agricultural Extension Service is the conveyor belt that moves findings from the laboratory to the farm.

In planning for the future we must give attention to the techniques of communication and teaching. If our studies are to bear fruit, there must be a constant flow of understandable information—not only to the farmers, but also to all users of the knowledge which research generates. . . .

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