

Report on Fats and Oils

The Eternal Struggle

a drama in one scene

SCENE: *A soybean mill, late in September 1958. The machinery is still, and the whole building is deserted and quiet. It is getting dark, but the lights have not been turned on yet. There are a few drums of SOYBEAN OIL in a corner and nearby some sacks of SOYBEAN MEAL. A few SOYBEANS are lying around.*

SOYBEAN OIL: That was a pretty nasty trick you played on me.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Who, me?

SOYBEAN OIL: Yes, you.

SOYBEAN MEAL: What did I do?

SOYBEAN OIL: You know perfectly well what you did. I guess you just couldn't stand seeing things go my way. I had glamor, excitement, P.L. 480, and a price chart with more curves in it than the old Post Road. Now look at me! I haven't a friend left.

SOYBEAN MEAL: That doesn't surprise me—after the way you treated them. You disappointed a lot of people last year, you know. And furthermore I *don't* know perfectly well what I did.

SOYBEAN OIL: How can you stand there and say that? Things would have been just fine if it hadn't been for you. I was really in demand for a while, you know; and there were a lot of things helping me along. There wasn't much cottonseed oil around, and there never was as much lard as people thought there would be. I'd like to have seen them get along without me. They wanted me all over the world. I was a sensation in Spain.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Yeah!

SOYBEAN OIL: Don't "yeah" me!

SOYBEAN MEAL: Okay, okay, but I don't know why you're mad at me. What did I do?

SOYBEAN OIL (*furiously*): You know perfectly well what you did.

SOYBEAN MEAL: You said that before. That's the way my wife answers questions.

SOYBEAN OIL: All right, I'll tell you what you did. They made too much of me.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Now tell me what I did!

SOYBEAN OIL: Well, you made them make too much of me. If they hadn't needed so much of you, they wouldn't have made so much of me. That was what ruined me. Too much of a good thing. Look what happened to the sack dress.

SOYBEANS: Now Soybean Oil, don't feel that way about Soybean Meal. I don't know what I'd have done without him last year. Besides I love you both very much, and I hate to see you argue like this. I wish the best to both of you.

SOYBEAN OIL: Of course you do, but you're just thinking of yourself.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Oh, don't be such a crab! It wasn't my fault that I was so popular this year. It was those fancy prices for livestock. I'm sure glad that there didn't turn out to be as many hogs as they predicted. If there had been, hog prices wouldn't have been so high and farmers probably wouldn't have wanted so much of me.

SOYBEAN OIL: Bully for you!

SOYBEAN MEAL: Well, you should feel good about the hog thing, too. After all, it meant less lard and a greater demand for you.

SOYBEANS: We're all glad about the hog thing.

MILL OPERATOR (*from the office*): Amen!

SOYBEAN OIL: Well, maybe next year will be different. There'll be more hogs, you know. That means lower hog prices and less demand for you.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Prove it!

SOYBEAN OIL: I can't prove it.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Of course you can't. You'll just have to wait and see. Anybody can prove though that more

hogs mean more lard. That won't do you any good. And there'll be more cottonseed oil too. You might as well face facts, you know. Everybody's saying that I'll be as much in demand next year as last year, maybe more so. It's you they're worried about.

SOYBEAN OIL: I can read the papers as well as you can. I know what they're saying.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Would you be interested in some friendly advice? It worked like a charm for me.

SOYBEAN OIL: Start talking!

SOYBEAN MEAL: Well, I attribute my success to the fact that all the while that you were stealing the show, I was doing everything I could to make myself more attractive. The quickest way to become popular, you know, is through price.

SOYBEAN OIL: For goodness sakes! Haven't I done enough in that direction? What I need is a good press agent.

SOYBEAN MEAL: You had a lot of good press agents last year, but you let them all down. I don't blame them for being wary of you. If you take my advice, you'll become more reasonable. Then maybe you'll become more popular. You have a tremendous potential overseas, you know, but you also have a lot of competition. Peanut oil is very attractive in Europe.

SOYBEANS: Down with Peanut Oil!

SOYBEAN OIL: *Up* with peanut oil, you silly old man. Anyway what makes you think I'm not already reasonable enough? I'd hate to be *too* reasonable.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Just like a woman!

SOYBEAN OIL: Well, never you mind. My day will come. My public will never forget me. I know that way down deep they really like me more than you. I'm very attractive right now. One of these days I'll be wanted all over the world, and there won't be enough of me to go around.

SOYBEAN MEAL: There's more where you came from.

SOYBEAN OIL: The same goes for you.

SOYBEANS: Oh, hush!

Curtain

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A.O.C.S. Commentary

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of its members are effective in helping to establish standards. Especially they can help in stimulating a wider use of the "products" which come from technical committee activities. In this era of an exploding technology the officers and members of A.S.T.M. believe there is great merit in extending joint society activities and responsibilities.

The Brazilians, who are, like those of us in the United States, vitally concerned with research and standards for materials, say in their language, "Muitas Felicidade."

ROBERT J. PAINTER, executive secretary
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Food Technologists Offer Award

THE Institute of Food Technologists has announced the establishment of a Food Technology Industrial Achievement Award to honor an outstanding food process and/or product which represents a significant advance in the application of food technology to food production. It must have been successfully applied in actual commercial operation for not less than six months or more than four years prior to September 15, 1958.

Any member of the Institute may send nominations for the award, in letter form, to the Institute office, 176 W. Adams street, Chicago, Ill. The award will consist of plaques for the individual(s) and the company or institution concerned.