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New Year's Message from the President

CHANGE is constant and time flies! It has been over two years since the USA Branch staged a successful Congress in New Orleans. Our eyes are now focused on the next Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

Having had the privilege, since New Orleans, to participate in WPSA meetings and conferences and meet many of our members on four continents, I am deeply impressed with the wide variety of WPSA activities around the world and the wide dedication to WPSA objectives.

In reflecting on WPSA activities and the objectives of our Association, it becomes obvious that we must be concerned with the challenge of helping to feed the world. The poultry industry has performed remarkably well in this respect. But, the challenge remains. Therefore, as we start the New Year, I would like to share some thoughts with you on this vital subject.

Some commentators say that a long-term shortage of food could make any energy crisis look like a picnic.

Researchers generally agree that unless there is a reduction in the rate of population growth there will be no solution to the long-range world food problem. It is significant that at the World Population Conference in 1974, 130 countries unanimously agreed to two principles:

First, that it is the right of all citizens to have knowledge as to how they might have the number of children they desire... and, that it is the responsibility of every Government to see that its citizens have this knowledge.

Today about one-fifth of the people in the world are well fed while about four-fifths are poorly fed. If current birth rates continue, the world's population is expected to expand from the currently estimated 4 billion to around 6.2 billion in the year 2,000. Eighty percent of this increase will occur in Africa, Asia, and Latin America—the areas least able to feed and support such a population.

Statements such as these lead to pessimistic views of what world food supplies for the future will be for many people. Many agriculturalists believe that a partial solution lies in the expansion of present technology in animal production.

The developing countries have about 60% of the world's domestic livestock and fowl. Yet these same countries produce only about 22% of the world's supply of meat, milk and eggs.

Animal foods can help solve the problem of food shortage in three ways. These foods provide quality nutrients needed for human diets. They can be produced efficiently. And animals (including poultry) grown for food can help improve the environment.

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Editorial

WE would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members a happy and successful 1977.

We would, however, commend our readers to the more solemn comments on the Association's duties in the New Year message from our President, and in the items of Prof. J. A. Castello's report to the Executive Committee on p. 48 of this issue.

We apologise to contributors for the delay in publishing their papers but continued inflation dictates the number of papers per issue as a result of increasing postal rates.

May we request contributors to supply 3 copies of summaries of their papers? This is essential if translations are to accompany the English summary. We would also draw the attention of Branch secretaries to the latest date for inclusion of branch notes and to remember that if notification of "forthcoming meetings" are to reach readers in time to be meaningful they should appear in the issue prior to the quarter in which the meeting is to be held.

Our printing schedule for 1977 is:—

Last date for receipt of material. Issue 2 15. 3. 77 Issue 3 14. 6. 77 Issue 4 29. 9. 77 and Issue 1 (1978) 13. 12. 77.

This does not apply to scientific articles which are at present well in hand and can be with the printer immediately the previous issue has been completed and in time for page proofs to be out to the authors for correction and return. Please do not let this detract from the submission of papers.

Our thanks are due to our translators Dr. W. Hartmann and Dr. P. Merat for their continued help and indeed to all our contributors and Branch Federation group secretaries.