leS., to the NEWS

by PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618-462-5415

RELEASE: November 29

THANKSGIVING & FOOD

Thanksgiving is the most traditionally American holid,ay. Its observance was started by the Pilgrim Fathers 150 years before the folll,lding of the United States.

A Thanksgiving for abundant harvests is even more appropri te in 1974 than ever before. Our thanks should go not only to God, but to the American farmer who is the world's most advanced and efficient producer. He feeds himself and 58 other persons on a high-protein diet, in contrast to the Russian farmer who feeds himself and only seven other persons on a starchy diet.

The American farmer produces the best, the most, the greatest variety, and the lowest-priced food in the world. And out of our surpluses, we have generously given away some $25 billion worth of food to the hungry in foreign lands. Eighty-four percent of world food relief has been provided by the United States.

Many other countries in the world have just as fertile soil and even longer growing seasons than we have. What makes the difference in the United States is the climate of freedom that has given the American farmer the•incentive to produce, and has encouraged American industry to invent and manufacture the agricultural machinery that enables one man to farm hundreds of acres.

The big contrast· between Americ n -and Russian a griculture was dramatized when Russian dictator Nikita Khrushchev visited an Iowa farm in 1959. He bellowed, ''Where are the workers?" and simply could not believe that a single family could operate_a 1,000-acre farm.

At the recent Rome Food Conference, the Socialist nations, led by

(more)

Red China, Cuba and India, falsely blamed the United States for the orld food shortage, and demanded more free food as "compensation." Instead of blaming us, the Socialist countries should, first, get government off the backs of their own farmers, and, second, invite American farmers to teach them our production techniques.

Illinois Farm Bureau president Harold B. Steel, upon his return from Rome, reported that "most of the 77 underdeveloped nations represented at the World Food Conference feel the United States owes them fr e food." He went on to say that, "1 take a n gative approach to people or nations telling us what we must do with our food production.·

... We cannot help the world's starving by joining them in their starvation. We can't help anyone if we destroy the American agricultural economy."

In the present world food emergency, however, there are some steps we could take to help. One idea would be for Americans to drink less alcohol, and thereby cut back on the grain now used for that purpose. Harvard nutritionist Jean Mayer says that Americans drink nough grain-made alcohol each year to feed 40 to 50 million persons•

Another step we might take would be to top subsidizing farmers who grow tobacco. Tobacco fields could then be used for growing food, and our taxpayers would be relie ed from paying to grow a product which the Surgeon Genera says is dangerous to health.

Some experts have estimated that Americans waste up to 25 percent of the. food they buy. If the amount of_ food that contributes to over weight is taken into account, some experts believe that our "waste" figure, may go as high as 50 percent.

However, the best thing we can do for hungry countries is to encourage them to imitate the freedom and the methods that have made the American farmer so productive.

(end).