

DEVELOPING A PLAN OF FIGHTING HUNGER IN AMERICA: ACTION
PRESENTED TO THE
1987 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
FOOD RESEARCH & ACTION CENTER
REMARKS BY
WILLIAM S. WOODSIDE
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AMERICAN CAN COMPANY

WASHINGTON, D1C1
MARCH 23, 1987

SINCE THIS IS WASHINGTON) I KNOW THAT ALL OF
YOU MUST FAVOR THE CONSTITUTION) THE BILL OF
RIGHTS AND FREE SPEECH. I DON'T KNOW WHAT
ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE TO TALK ABOUT THE
CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS) BUT I'M
THE GUY WHO WAS ASKED TO GIVE THE FREE
SPEECH.

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE) THERE IS NO GROUP

WITH WHOM I WOULD RATHER SHARE MY TIME. ~~Wa~~ /4/1.4

.4:f

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DID NOT COME HERE

SEEKING PRAISE FROM ME OR ANYONE ELSE, You

CAME HERE FOR A MORE IMPORTANT PURPOSE --- TO

WORK ON DEVELOPING A MORE SUBSTANTIAL AND

COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN TO FEED THE HUNGRY,

BUT BEFORE WE GET TO THAT SUBJECT) I WANT TO

TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY PUBLICLY WHAT I THINK IS

TOO OFTEN LEFT UNSTATED AND PERHAPS EVEN

/9,e)0447

TAKEN FOR GRANTED: THOSE OF YOU WHWORK IN /;,,,-.5, , ;.24de.), 5

FOOD BANKS AND EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS ARE

THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY KEEP HUNGER ON THE

NATIONAL AGENDA, You ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP

AMERICA'S SOCIAL CONSCIENCE ALIVE AND WELL,

THOSE OF US IN THE SO-CALLED "LEADERSHIP"
POSITIONS RECEIVE MORE CREDIT THAN WEREEMErS
DESERVE BECAUSE WE MAKE THE PUBLIC
APPEARANCES AND ACCEPT THE AWARDS,
BUT YOU DO THE REAL WORK,
DAY AFTER DAY) YOU EXHIBIT A CONCERN FOR
OTHERS BASED ON A SIMPLE BUT PROFOUND TRUTH
THAT IT IS JUST PLAIN WRONG FOR PEOPLE TO GO
HUNGRY .

AT A TIME WHEN THIS COUNTRY PAYS FAR TOO
MUCH ATTENTION TO THE DOLLAR SIGN AS THE
BOTTOM LINE) YOUR EFFORTS ARE A REMINDER THAT
PEOPLE) NOT DOLLARS) ARE THE REAL BOTTOM
LINE,

ALL OF YOU IN THIS ROOM DESERVE TO BE
CONGRATULATED, COLLECTIVELY YOU HAVE DONE
CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN MOST ADVOCATES FOR
THE POOR IN RECENT YEARS. IN SOME WAYS) THIS
IS ATTESTABLE TO YOUR SKILLS AND DEDICATION.

IN ANOTHER) IT IS A REMINDER THAT OUR SOCIETY
CAN BE DECENT AND CARING WHEN THE ISSUES ARE

VMc12{
PLACED BEFORE US CLEARLY AND *Miet4444.Ow.L.*

IN THIS SENSE) HUNGER HAS SERVED AS AN ISSUE
THROUGH WHICH WE COULD SPEAK TO THE BEST
INSTINCTS OF OUR NATION. WHEN WE HAVE SAID,
"HUNGER IS UNCONSCIONABLE," ORDINARY
AMERICANS HAVE UNDERSTOOD --- EVEN WHEN THE
REAGAN ADMINISTRATION DID NOT.

THE FRUSTRATION IS THAT SO MUCH OF OUR
ENERGIES HAVE GONE INTO A HOLDING ACTION.
BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.

FRAC

SO LIKE YOU., I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS TODAY --
MIXED FEELINGS BECAUSE I WOULD PREFER TO MAKE
HEADWAY RATHER THAN HOLD THE LINE/ AND
BECAUSE THERE STILL ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN
THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE WITHOUT FOOD., WITHOUT
SHELTER AND WITHOUT A DECENT STANDARD OF
LIVING,

FRAC

THE MOST RECENT SURVEY BY THE U.S, CONFERENCE
OF MAYORS, PUBLISHED LAST DECEMBER, SHOWED
HUNGER INCREASING IN 22 OF THE 25 CITIES
SURVEYED, IN 20 OF THOSE CITIES, THERE WERE
SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND THE NUMBER OF
ELDERLY REQUESTING EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE,

FRAC

THIRTEEN CITIES REPORTED THAT EMERGENCY FOOD
ASSISTANCE FACILITIES WERE TURNING AWAY
PEOPLE IN NEED BECAUSE OF LACK OF RESOURCES,
IN OTHER WORDS) NOT ENOUGH SUPPLIES AND NOT
ENOUGH STAFF,

DENVER REPORTED NO 24-HOUR FACILITIES AND
SAID THAT 20PERCENT OF THE CALLS FOR HELP
CAME AFTER OPERATING HOURS,

FRAC

KANSAS CITY REPORTED THAT ONE-THIRD OF ITS
LOCAL PANTRIES WERE PROVIDING LESS THAN A
THREE-DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD.

AND 21 OF THE 25 CITIES SAID THEY EXPECTED
THE DEMAND TO INCREASE IN 1987.

4. ⁻ Ae/e,

THE STORY IS THE SAME IN RURAL AREAS' PUBLIC

VOICE SURVEYED THE

NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE RURAL POOR AND FOUND

THAT THE RURAL POOR OFTEN RECEIVE LESS THAN 40

PERCENT OF THE PER CAPITA LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE

THAT THE URBAN POOR RECEIVE' MOREOVER., SINCE

1981 WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DROPPED ITS

FOOD STAMP OUTREACH PROGRAM) THE NUMBER OF

RURAL POOR LEFT UNSERVED HAS RISEN

DRAMATICALLY.

Why

FRAC

THE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS THESE DATA RAISE ARE
NOT WHAT HAS HAPPENED, BUT WHAT HAS NOT
HAPPENED; NOT WHY THERE CONTINUE TO BE HUNGRY
PEOPLE IN AMERICA., BUT WHY THIS NATION ALLOWS
HUNGER TO EXIST; NOT WHETHER WE CAN ELIMINATE
HUNGER., BUT WHEN WE ARE GOING TO DO IT; AND
IF WE ARE GOING TO DO IT) WHEN WE ARE GOING
TO GET OUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER AND STOP
ASKING THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO DO THE WORK THAT
GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING,

NONE OF US CAN QUARREL TOO MUCH WITH THE WAY
THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS RESPONDED TO AMERICA'S
HUNGRY DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS. FOOD BANKS
AND EMERGENCY KITCHENS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY
A WIDE RANGE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND STAFFED BY
A VIRTUAL ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS, RELIGIOUS
GROUPS HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY GENEROUS
PROVIDERS AND SUPPORTERS,

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY ALSO IS INVOLVED TO A
DEGREE MANY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE
JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, I HAVE SEEN
CORPORATIONS THAT ONCE COULDN'T SEE MUCH
BEYOND THEIR OWN BOARDROOMS BECOME ACTIVELY
INVOLVED IN SECOND HARVEST AND ENCOURAGE
THEIR EMPLOYEES TO BECOME VOLUNTEERS IN LOCAL
FOOD BANKS AND PANTRIES.

FRAC

OUR QUARREL IS WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR, WITH A
PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL ACTION THAT PUTS
GOVERNMENT ON THE BACK BURNER, THAT LOOKS AT
HUNGER, POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS AS ISSUES
PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS
CAN ADDRESS IN THEIR SPARE TIME, AT NIGHT AND
ON WEEKENDS,

IT CAN'T BE DONE,

AND

You KNOW IT I KNOW IT. SO DOES EVERYONE
ELSE IN THIS CITY.

WE SEEM TO HAVE DRIFTED AWAY FROM AN
UNDERSTANDING OF OUR OWN HISTORY AND THE
ROLE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PLAYED IN
THAT HISTORY.

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS) WE HAVE TURNED OUR
PAST UPSIDE DOWN.; WE HAVE SEEMINGLY REDEFINED
GOVERNMENT AS A NEGATIVE FORCE IN OUR LIVES)
AS AN INSTITUTION THAT WEAKENS OUR SOCIAL
FABRIC AND LIMITS OUR POTENTIAL,

FRAC

I SUBMIT THAT INSTEAD WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE
GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN AS A MANIFESTATION OF
OUR NATIONAL PURPOSES AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE
KIND OF SOCIETY WE WANT TO BECOME.; NOT IN A

CONTROLLING SENSE BUT IN A LIBERATING SENSE.

WE NEED TO PUT ASIDE THE MYTH THAT THE SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC SUFFERING OF THE 1980s IS THE
RESULT OF GOVERNMENT FAILURE DURING THE 1960s
AND 1970s. WE NEED INSTEAD TO SEE GOVERNMENT
AS THE ONE INSTITUTION IN OUR SOCIETY THAT
CAN GIVE SHAPE AND SUBSTANCE TO THE HOPES AND
ACTIVITIES WHICH INDIVIDUALS CANNOT FULLY
ACHIEVE WHEN ACTING ONLY THROUGH PRIVATE
ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS.

FRAC

GOVERNMENT ACTION DOES NOT DIMINISH PRIVATE
SECTOR INVOLVEMENT. IT EXPANDS IT, ENHANCES
IT, PROVIDES IT WITH A FOUNDATION AND A
FRAMEWORK. WHEN GOVERNMENT PLAYS AN ACTIVE
AND POSITIVE ROLE, THE WHOLE DOES INDEED
BECOME GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS.

THERE IS NO BETTER EXAMPLE THAN OUR EFFORTS
TO FEED THE HUNGRY,

FRAC

I THINK THAT MOST OF YOU ARE VERY EFFECTIVE
IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES. THE
ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES WITH WHICH YOU ARE
AFFILIATED ALSO ARE EFFECTIVE.

BUT THINK HOW MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE YOU COULD
BE IF THIS COUNTRY EXPANDED ITS COMMITMENT AND
ITS PROGRAMS TO FEED PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY.

FRAC

THINK HOW MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE YOU COULD BE IF
EMERGENCY FOOD BANKS WERE JUST ONE TYPE OF
PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE IN NEED INSTEAD
OF THE ONLY PROGRAM FOR SO MANY TENS OF
THOUSANDS,

THINK OF HOW MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE YOU COULD BE
IF YOU COULD SPEND MORE TIME FEEDING THE
HUNGRY AND LESS TIME FIGHTING BUREAUCRATIC
OBSTACLES THAT PREVENT PEOPLE FROM RECEIVING
ASSISTANCE,

WE NEED A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON HUNGER IN THIS
COUNTRY.

WE NEED TO STOP SPENDING SO MUCH TIME
DEBATING AND DEFINING LEVELS OF NEED AND
START BEING MORE RESPONSIVE TO THAT NEED.

OF COURSE IT'S POSSIBLE TO ARGUE THAT THE
FAMILY THAT MISSES FOUR MEALS A MONTH HAS A
DIFFERENT LEVEL OF NEED THAN THE FAMILY THAT
MISSES **15** MEALS A MONTH.

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO ARGUE THAT THE FAMILY THAT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR THEIR CHILDREN FOR A WEEK IS IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY THAN THE FAMILY THAT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FEED ITS CHILDREN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

You CAN ARGUES TOO., THAT PEOPLE WHO DO NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS OF HUNGERS EVEN THOUGH THEY CLEARLY ARE HUNGRY AND IN NEED., ARE SOMEHOW IN A DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION THAN THOSE WHO VIEW THEMSELVES AS NEEDY.

BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT REALLY MAKE?

IS HUNGER A COMPETITION TO DETERMINE WHO IS
THE MOST HUNGRY, THE MOST NEEDY, THE MOST
DESERVING?

IS HUNGER A CONTEST IN WHICH WE CAUTIOUSLY
RATION OUT OUR COMPASSION TO ONLY THE MOST
DESPERATE AND THE MOST HOPELESS?

FRAC

THE ISSUE WE NEED TO ADDRESS IS NOT WHETHER
FAMILY **A** IS HUNGRIER THAN FAMILY **B**. IT IS NOT
WHETHER MR. X IS MORE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING
FOR HIS CHILDREN THAN MRS. Z. IT IS NOT
WHETHER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE
CHRONICALLY HUNGRY IS LARGER THAN THE NUMBER
WHO ARE EPISODICALLY HUNGRY. THAT DEBATE
HELPS NOBODY,

WE NEED INSTEAD TO LOOK BEHIND THE
STATISTICS) THE CATEGORIES AND THE
COMPARISONS AND REMIND OURSELVES ABOUT

THE WOMAN WHOSE DIET CONSISTS PRIMARILY
OF COFFEE AND CRACKERS TWICE A DAY SO
HER CHILDREN CAN HAVE THE SMALL AMOUNT
OF NOURISHING FOOD THAT IS AVAILABLE TO
THE FAMILY,

0 THE FAMILY THAT TRIES NOT TO SPEND ANY
MONEY ON FOOD ONE WEEK A MONTH SO THE
CHILDREN CAN HAVE SHOES AND CLOTHING AND
THE FAMILY CAN STAY OUT OF DEBT.

0 THE ELDERLY WOMAN WHO EATS A CUP OF
BEANS AND A SMALL SQUARE OF FRIED BREAD
EACH DAY -- AND NOTHING ELSE -- BECAUSE
SHE IS TOO EMBARRASSED TO ASK FOR HELP,

WE NEED TO FACE THE FACT THAT THIS NATION
STILL HAS NOT COMMITTED ITSELF TO PROVIDING
PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY WITH ACCESS TO A DIET
THAT IS BOTH NUTRITIOUS AND AFFORDABLE,

ALL OF US ARE HERE TODAY TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION ON A VARIETY OF FRONTS. WE WANT TO LEAVE HERE ON TUESDAY WITH A BETTER SENSE OF HOW TO PROVIDE HUNGRY PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAMS) HOW TO INVOLVE EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS IN LARGER NETWORKS) HOW TO DOCUMENT HUNGER IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM) HOW TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION) AND HOW TO RAISE FUNDS **FOR OUR** PROGRAMS.

EACH TOPIC IS IMPORTANT. WE SHOULD NOT
OVERLOOK OR MINIMIZE ANY OF THEM, BUT OUR
ACTION PLAN ALSO MUST INCLUDE SENDING STRONG
AND REPEATED MESSAGES TO CAPITOL HILL, TO
STATE CAPITOLS, TO CITY HALLS, TO PRIVATE
INDUSTRY AND TO THE WHITE HOUSE THAT, AS A
NATION, OUR RESPONSE TO HUNGER STILL IS
INADEQUATE,

THE EVIDENCE IS ALL AROUND US, WE SEE IT
EVERY DAY.

SOME \$12 BILLION HAS BEEN CUT FROM FEDERAL
FOOD PROGRAMS OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD --
\$7 BILLION FROM THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AND
\$5 BILLION FROM THE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS,

THE WIC PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT'S MOST SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS) BUT IT
DOES NOT EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO SERVE ONE
OF EVERY TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE.

AND THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM DOESN'T EVEN DO
THE JOB FOR MANY PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE ITS
BENEFITS,

HOW COULD IT? FOOD STAMP BENEFITS AVERAGE 50
CENTS PER PERSON PER MEAL, YOU CAN BUY RICE
OR BEANS WITH THAT AMOUNT) BUT NOT MUCH MEAT)
FRESH FRUIT OR VEGETABLES, IS IT ANY WONDER
FAMILIES THAT RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS OFTEN RUN
OUT BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH) OR THAT
MOTHERS CURB THE HUNGER IN THEIR CHILDREN
WITH POPCORN AND WATER.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM NO
LONGER IS A PROGRAM BASED ON HOW MUCH IT
ACTUALLY COSTS PEOPLE TO EAT, IT'S A PROGRAM
DESIGNED TO KEEP FEDERAL SPENDING TO A
MINIMUM, THE 'THRIFTY FOOD PLAN' ON WHICH
THE PROGRAM IS BASED IS THE CHEAPEST FOOD
PLAN EVER DEvised BY THE U,S, DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE.

As THE PHYSICIANS TASK FORCE ON HUNGER IN AMERICA NOTED: "THE THRIFTY FOOD PLAN IS AN EXAMPLE OF BUREAUCRACY GONE AWRY. A FEDERAL EXPENDITURE LEVEL WAS SET) AND A COMPUTER WAS PROGRAMMED TO DESIGN A FOOD PLAN EQUAL TO THAT LEVEL -- IRRESPECTIVE OF HUMAN NEEDS."

FRAC

AND WHEN THE FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER
TOOK A CLOSER LOOK AT THE THRIFTY FOOD PLAN,
IT FOUND THE PLAN LACKING IN TERMS OF BUYING
POWER, **FRAC** SURVEYED EIGHT MAJOR

METROPOLITAN AREAS AND FOUND THAT A FAMILY OF
FOUR NEEDED SUBSTANTIALLY MORE MONEY EACH
MONTH TO PURCHASE THE FOOD ITEMS CONTAINED IN
THE THRIFTY FOOD PLAN THAN THE FEDERAL FOOD
STAMP BENEFITS SCHEDULE ALLOWED,

WE WANT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED
IN HUNGER PROGRAMS. WE WANT MORE PRIVATE
SECTOR INVOLVEMENT. BUT ONLY THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION WE NEED
AND THE STABILITY WE NEED, THE PRIVATE
SECTOR CANNOT PROVIDE EITHER, NO MATTER HOW
WELL INTENTIONED AN INDIVIDUAL COMPANY OR
GROUP OF COMPANIES.

THERE IS MORE TO FEEDING THE HUNGRY THAN
DONATING OR BUYING FOOD, You HAVE TO DEVELOP
A SYSTEM TO GET THE FOOD TO THE PEOPLE - NOT
JUST EVERY NOW AND THEN./ BUT ON A REGULAR AND
A CONSISTENT BASIS, You HAVE TO BE
DEPENDABLE AND YOU HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT, A
CORPORATION MIGHT LIKE TO FILL THAT KIND OF
ROLES BUT ANY CORPORATION THAT WANTS TO STAY
IN BUSINESS JUST DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES
TO DEVOTE TO THAT KIND OF REGULAR ACTIVITY.

EVEN IF SOME DID. , WHAT KIND OF ORGANIZATIONAL
NETWORK WOULD THEY DEVELOP AMONG THEMSELVES
IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT WHETHER A FAMILY
WAS FED DID NOT DEPEND ON THE ACCIDENT OF
GEOGRAPHY. , THE FACT THAT THE FAMILY WAS
FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LIVE IN AN AREA SERVED BY
THE CORPORATION?

WHAT HAPPENS IF PROFITS DROP? **No** COMPANY IS
GOING TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL PROGRAMS THAT
PRODUCE NO DIRECT REVENUES IF IT IS UNDER
PRESSURE TO CUT BUSINESS COSTS, EVEN NOW)
THE LEVEL OF CORPORATE DONATIONS TO FOOD
BANKS SOMETIMES DEPENDS UPON HOW WELL A
COMPANY DID LAST QUARTER.

LET'S CONTINUE URGING CORPORATE AMERICA TO
BECOME INVOLVED. LET'S CONTINUE PUTTING
PRESSURE ON CORPORATIONS TO MAINTAIN OR
INCREASE THEIR LEVELS OF CONTRIBUTION AND
PARTICIPATION. **NOW** THAT WE HAVE SO MANY
MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON THE
HOOK., LET'S NOT LET THEM OFF THE HOOK,

BUT LET'S NOT MAKE THE GRIEVOUS ERROR OF
ASKING CORPORATE AMERICA TO DO THE JOB THAT
GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO DO, IF WE ALLOW
THAT TO HAPPEN., WE WILL BE LOSERS.

FRAC

POLITICAL CONSERVATIVES HAVE SPENT A LOT OF
TIME IN THIS COUNTRY DURING THE LAST SEVERAL
YEARS TRYING TO IMPLEMENT A PLATFORM THAT
WOULD ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO ABDICATE SOME OF
ITS BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES. IT'S FINALLY
TIME TO END THAT DOMINANCE AND FACE REALITY
ONCE AGAIN, IT'S TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR
HISTORY AND OUR TRADITIONS AND DEVELOP A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF FEDERAL ACTION TO FEED
THE HUNGRY,
BUT CAN WE AFFORD THIS?

FRAC

LET ME ASK ANOTHER QUESTION. How CAN WE NOT
AFFORD TO DO THIS?

IF MONEY IS ALL THAT IS HOLDING US BACK) I
WOULD SUGGEST THAT IF THE PENTAGON HAD TO
MEET THE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA THAT HUNGRY
AMERICANS HAVE TO MEET BEFORE THEY RECEIVE
SOME HELP., WE WOULD HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH
MONEY TO FEED THE HUNGRY AND THE
MALNOURISHED.

FRAC

SOME PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES ARE SO COMPLEX THAT
WE CAN BARELY BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THEM) LET
ALONE BEGIN TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS.

HUNGER IS NOT ONE OF THOSE ISSUES,

THERE IS NO MYSTERY ABOUT HUNGER, IT OCCURS
WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT,
MALNUTRITION IS NO MYSTERY, EITHER, IT
OCCURS WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH OF THE
RIGHT KINDS OF FOOD TO EAT, BOTH INVARIABLY
OCCUR WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY
TO BUY FOOD, OR WHEN THE GOVERNMENT AND
PRIVATE AGENCIES THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE ARE UNABLE TO DO SO,

WE KNOW, TOO, HOW HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION CAN
SEVERELY DAMAGE INFANT HEALTH, CHILD GROWTH
AND DEVELOPMENT, LEARNING CAPABILITY AND
SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-RESPECT.

WHAT MORE CAN WE POSSIBLY NEED TO KNOW IN
ORDER TO ACT?

____FRAC

ALBERT CAMUS ONCE OBSERVED THAT YOU CAN CURE
EVERY INJUSTICE IN THE WORLD AND CHILDREN
STILL WILL CRY, ASKING FOR A NATIONAL
PROGRAM TO COMBAT HUNGER IS HARDLY A REQUEST
TO CURE ALL THE INJUSTICES IN THE WORLD.

WE KNOW CHILDREN WILL ALWAYS CRY, WHAT WE
DON'T UNDERSTANDS IS WHY THEY MUST GO HUNGRY.
THANK YOU.